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THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

March 12, 2004 ♦ **FRIDAY**

Going wild

With the constant complaints of lousy Midwestern weather, students flee Charleston for more inviting areas.

Page 1B VERGE



ILLINOIS PRIMARY

"It's the old class warfare game that we like to play."

— Mayor Dan Coughlin on referendum to increase taxes for people more than \$250,000 a year

\$1.9 mil. for pool project on ballot

By Jessica Youngs
CITY EDITOR

In preparation for the Illinois Primaries hitting Charleston Tuesday morning, the city has been working hard to prepare its ballots for voters.

Although Charleston's bipartisan city elections run a year behind federal elections, there will be plenty of other items for voters to consider.

Mayor Dan Coughlin said there will be two referendums for voters to consider Tuesday.

The first referendum will ask residents if they will support taking out general obligation bonds not exceeding \$1.5 million and a 5.75 percent interest rate to help redo the Charleston Rotary Swimming Pool.

Coughlin explained that although the project would cost approximately \$1.9 million, the remaining \$400,000 will likely come from an Open Space Land Acquisition and Development grant from the state of Illinois.

However, Coughlin said Gov. Rod Blagojevich recently announced he would like to put the grants on hold because of the budget deficit, an announcement that has caused much controversy among his own people.

"It's not a done deal," Coughlin said.

If the voters decide to pass the pool referendum, Coughlin said the city will likely start on the pool renovations at the end of the summer season, completing them before the following season begins.

One of the major renovations on the pool would include the creation of a zero-depth pool allowing for parents to sit in a shallow area while their children play in exactly the right depth for their needs.

Other renovations would include creating a small aquatics park, removing a diving board, creating a walking path around the pool, installing a sliding bulkhead and building a water slide.

In addition to the referendum on the swimming pool, voters will see an advisory referendum on the Mattoon City and Coles County ballots, which was requested by Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn.

Quinn wants to ask voters whether they will support amending the state constitution by placing a 3 percent surtax on taxpayers earning more than \$250,000.

The extra revenues from the surtax would provide permanent property tax relief to homeowners and generate approximately \$575 million in educational funding, Coughlin previously explained.

"It's the old class warfare game that we like to play," he said.

STUDENT SENATE

Talks on fees placed on hold

Committee to rewrite motions for discussion after break

By Brian O'Malley
STUDENT GOVERNMENT EDITOR

After two motions to increase the grant-in-aid and health service fees were defeated Wednesday by the Student Senate, the Tuition and Fees Committee will rewrite the motions to be discussed on March 24.

Larry Ward, student vice president for financial affairs, said he and the committee wanted the

motion failed because they noticed a change they wanted to make.

The original proposal would have each full-time undergraduate student pay \$2.40 more every year. The current grant-in-aid fee is \$77.50.

Ward said grant-in-aid currently gives 80 percent of the money to athletics and 20 percent to academics.

The committee added 60 cents

to make a total of \$3.00 in order to maintain the current percentages.

"I encouraged the bill to fail," Ward said. "We didn't want to skew the fee's current percentage."

On March 23, the committee will meet to write up a new motion adding 60 cents to the yearly proposal, Ward said.

"We're going to go back and rediscuss the bill," he said.

If the original proposal was

approved, the grant-in-aid fee would give about 83 percent to athletics and 17 percent to academics.

"We didn't realize that the percentages were going to change that much," Ward said.

Nikki Kull, chair of the committee, has to give President Lou Hencken a report upon return from spring break.

SEE FEES ♦ Page 9A



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Moving out

George Kuder (left), of Deland, and Jim Walters (center), of Downs, both workers with Peters' Home Movers out of Farmer City, work with Ron Peters (right) Thursday afternoon at "The Zoo," 1616 Ninth St. The company is moving the building from its current site to a new location a few blocks away. The university plans to use the site for a parking lot.

Are you voting in the Illinois primary? Who are you voting for?



"No, I haven't registered yet."

Hillary Oakley
junior biology



"No thanks, voting for an anti-war hippie or North Carolinian doesn't appeal to me."

Jason Adamyec
freshman speech pathology



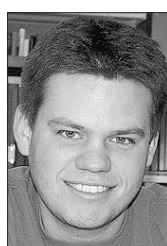
"Yes. I don't know yet. Kerry, because he's looking out for middle class people and minorities."

Sharie Gillett
freshman marketing



"No, I haven't registered yet."

Jim Kron
junior environmental biology



"Yes. I don't know who's running but I'll vote."

Jeremy Mobley
sophomore psychology

Student apathy still prevalent

By Evan Hill
CAMPUS EDITOR

While the Feb. 17 deadline to register has already passed for the Illinois Primary Election taking place Tuesday, those who forgot can still register for the 2004 General Election that will take place in November.

A worker at the Coles County Clerk's office said 29,523 people, or 55 percent of the county's population, have registered to vote in the March Primary, and 10,892, or 52 percent of the Charleston population, is registered in Charleston.

However, those numbers include few Eastern students because many students are either registered in their home towns or chose not to register. The Student Senate conducted a voter registration drive in February.

The senate registered students so they would receive an absentee ballot in the mail, getting around the issue that most students will not be in Charleston during the primary.

SEE APATHY ♦ Page 9A

Today
Sunny



40° 23°
HIGH LOW

Saturday
Partly cloudy



47° 41°
HIGH LOW

Sunday
Rain



55° 33°
HIGH LOW

Monday
Partly cloudy



42° 29°
HIGH LOW

Tuesday
Mostly sunny



53° 40°
HIGH LOW

Wednesday
Partly cloudy



58° 47°
HIGH LOW

Thursday
Mostly cloudy



57° 42°
HIGH LOW



Mark Borzi, the chair of the speech communication department, speaks to the Council for Academic Affairs Thursday afternoon in Booth Library.

DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Speech Department gets new name

◆ *Council makes revision to sociology minor*

By Jennifer Peryam
STAFF WRITER

The Council on Academic Affairs approved a program revision for the sociology minor as well as a name change for the Department of Speech Communication.

"The sociology minor currently requires 21 hours of course work with a 12 hour specification. The revised proposal would maintain the 21 hours and only six hours would need to be specified," said Gary Foster, department chair for sociology and anthropology.

The sociology minor would still include Sociology 2710G "Introduction to Sociology," Sociology 2721 "Social Stratification" and Sociology 2850 "Classical Theory." Students would be required to take either Sociology 2721 or Sociology 2850, but not both like the current minor requires, Foster said.

"Sociology 3620 'Research Methods' will be eliminated because the vast majority of sociology minors are majors in other social sciences and already have substantial exposure to research methods," Foster said.

There has been a growth in minors and social science teacher certification with students increasingly competing with sociology majors in core sociology courses. With the 40 percent growth in majors over the past five semesters, the revision to the minor would alleviate some of the demand for seats.

"This revision will give sociology minors an increase in choices in electives," Foster said. The council also approved a proposed name change from members of the Department of Speech Communication. The Speech Department will now be known as the Department of Communication

Studies.

"External reviewers conducted a report in 1999 that encourage current university communication programs to put the mission of their departments in scope with their titles," said Mark Borzi, speech department chair.

The reviewers recommended the department change its name to the Department of Communication Studies to keep up with national trends. The impact of the former name caused the department to attract fewer students because the speech label hides many of the programs students look for.

"The earliest the title change can be implemented would be spring of 2004 because the fall schedule is already out," Borzi said. The department can be referred to as the Department of Communication Studies in July now that the name change has been approved.

The council also heard from Jeff Cross, associate vice president for Academic Affairs. Cross presented a dual admission pilot program to the council.

"Dual admission is a program that is in cooperation with community colleges accepting students before they complete an associate's degree in hopes to create a relationship with Eastern before they attend our university," Cross said. The planning stages of this program have been underway for a year and students who are dually admitted are required to meet the same requirements as incoming freshmen.

"We will use Lakeland Community College as a trial to determine parameters for the program," Cross said. Advising will primarily be the community college's responsibility, but students will be in contact with Anita Pearson, assistant director of admissions, Cross said.

"This is an important program because it will build a relationship between Eastern and community colleges," Cross said.

Tarble to hold All Student Art Show

By Brittany Robson
ACTIVITIES EDITOR

The first since the opening of the newly renovated old section of Tarble Arts Center will commence this Saturday.

The 2004 All Student Art Show will feature a variety of student's artwork.

Undergraduates who have taken at least one studio art course were eligible to enter. Various studio areas taught via the Eastern art department will be represented in the exhibition.

Michael Watts, director of Tarble, said the exhibition traditionally includes painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, metals, ceramics, fibers, graphic design, two-dimensional and three-dimensional design, computer animation, digital prints and photography.

"There were 400 pieces of art entered and 92 were picked to be shown in the show," Watts said.

The works and awards were picked by a panel of judges.

Selected works will receive awards at a presentation at 2:30 p.m. The judges will select the best of show, media merit awards and awards and recognition to the art faculty.

This year's judges include Ed Gettinger, chair of the art department at Western Illinois University, Alan T. Mette, foundation program chair at the University of Illinois - Champaign-Urbana school of art and design and Joseph Rejholec, chair of art and design at South Suburban College, a press release said.

The 2004 art show is cosponsored by Eastern's art department. Admission is free. Visitors are requested to use the original public entrance on the south side of the Tarble Arts Center because the addition is still under construction and the new Ninth Street entrance is not in use yet.

This show's art will be on display through April 4.

Council will vote on additional Square parking, allocations

By Jessica Youngs
CITY EDITOR

City Council will hold its second meeting of March Tuesday, complete with a full agenda of action items.

At the meeting, the council will vote on an allocation or currently on file for public inspection, for sensible rehabilitation within the Tax Increment Financing District to restore various city projects around the Square.

At the last council meeting, the allocation's specifications were not finalized; however, Mayor Dan Cougill said the council has decided to consider changing the parking spaces around the courthouse from 45-degree to 50-degree angles.

Because the Square is essentially a parking lot for surrounding stores, Cougill said the council wanted to create more parking for those businesses. By increasing the angle, eight more parking spaces will be created, two on each block,

he said.

Cougill said to add the extra spots, the size of the parking spaces will also need to be decreased by 6 inches to a width of 9 feet, which is the minimal size within code limits.

Cougill said changing the angled spaces five degrees will still be acceptable to the Illinois Department of Transportation which says parking spaces should be 45-degrees.

At the department's headquarters in Paris, however, parking

places are actually between 50 and 53 degrees, Cougill said.

The council also will be discussing the following items:

◆ A resolution to adopt a policy of record keeping for closed meeting sessions that will require the city to keep record of every closed meeting by audio recording and minutes;

◆ An ordinance to amend a permit for the Rolling Meadows Planned Unit Development owner

Michael Carlyle to build 24 one-bedroom apartments at the end of A Street north of Polk Avenue;

◆ A resolution to authorize the expenditure of tourism funds in the amount of \$1,663 to cover advertising expenses for the 2004 season at Lincoln Log Cabin;

◆ A resolution to authorize an agreement not to exceed \$10,000 with the engineering firm Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. for the new water treatment plant's pilot program study.

THE DAILY EASTERN NEWS

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SUGGESTIONS

If you have any suggestions or ideas for articles you would like to see in *The News*, feel free to contact us at 581-2812 or jpchambers@eiu.edu





DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

Wind damage

Brett Griffin, a senior psychology major, tries to salvage his kite Thursday afternoon on the Library Quad. The kite got tangled in winds nearing 30 mph.

Making the most of small living spaces

◆ *On campus students attempt to spice up their rooms*

By Kate Henderson
STAFF WRITER

Caves, prisons cells and cracker boxes. These terms are commonly associated with dorm rooms but with the new furniture in Thomas Hall, students have the freedom to create a little change. “I like it; it’s like big Lego blocks,” Evan Pudil, Thomas Hall resident and freshman undeclared major, said about the furniture. “I would definitely recommend it.” Pudil and his roommate have found that putting one bed on a loft and leaving the other on the floor along with angling a bed at one end of the room allows for a “chill spot” on the other side of the room. Melody Spencer, owner and registered interior designer for Spencer Design Services of Sullivan, suggested a few ways to make the best use of small spaces like dorm rooms. The space first needs to be inventoried, evaluated from most to least fixed item and then compared to the way the space is used in everyday life before deciding furniture placement. “Space is like air, it’s always around us,” she said. “We take it for granted unless it’s really, really bad or extraordinarily good.” Spencer said the space one lives in is

part of his or her health and welfare. She offered some suggestions on how to maximize dorm room space. “Form follows function,” she said. She suggested “using the entire volume of the room horizontally and vertically.” Lofting beds utilizes a lot of the vertical space and leaves room on the floor for traffic flow. Spencer said even though spaces are small, there are private and public areas that need to be separated. Pudil said he and his roommate have done this by creating their “chill spot” within the room using sheets and the desk and bed to make separate spaces. Some students do this by hanging sheets from the loft to create another room below the bed. Spencer said how elements are used in the room can control human behavior. Florescent, cooler light is effective for hindering symptoms of depression, she said. Some students complain about the curtains in the room because they don’t effectively block the light. Spencer suggested getting a tension rod and hanging extra drapes or fabric for more window covering. Spencer also suggested reconfiguring the furniture in the room for different seasons. Take into consideration windows letting in more cold air during winter and to use the movable furniture as an advantage, she said. Jean Dilworth, professor in the family and consumer sciences department, mentioned some trends currently hip.

“I like it; it’s like big Lego blocks. I would definitely recommend it.”

—Evan Pudil

She attended a workshop this week and brought back some new knowledge. Dilworth said organization and individualism are key factors in design. In the past people would do what was popular, now they do what is personally pleasing. Dilworth suggested organizing and framing newspaper clippings from your life and displaying them to create personal art. “Do to your room what makes it *your* room,” she said. “In our appearance of both clothing and homes, we have gone as casual as the cycle will let us,” said Sharon Graubard, vice president and creative director of ESP Trendlab in New York. Dilworth said botanical and outdoor extreme sports are two currently popular themes. New movable furniture will be placed in the women’s side of Carman Hall and the south tower of Taylor Hall this summer, said Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining. The total cost of the furniture will be \$830,000. Taylor South will also be receiving new carpet and other renovations, he said. The Taylor renovation project will cost a projected \$880,000.

Getting some time away from the office

◆ *Some administrators will trade in their office suits for bathing suits while others work*

By Kevin Sampier
ADMINISTRATION EDITOR

While students hop planes bound for warm weather and sandy beaches, it’s business as usual for some Eastern administrators. Budget Director Jim Shonkwiler said because of the recently proposed budget cuts made by Gov. Rod Blagojevich, he will be working throughout spring break. “I’m doing a lot of planning and activities surrounding the budgets proposed by the governor and what we intend to do to adjust to that level of funding if that’s what Eastern gets,” Shonkwiler said. Shonkwiler will be working the same 40 hour week over the break he always works and jokingly said, “We don’t get tired like the students.” Blair Lord, vice president for academic affairs, also will forego days off and trips to exotic locations to catch up on work at the office. “My contract has me working; I’ll take a vacation some other time,” Lord said. “Rather than getting to the stuff five minutes between meetings, I can actually spend several hours on this stuff,” Lord said of his paperwork, teacher evaluations, budget issues, faculty tenure and promotions. “We’re getting into the heavy period of faculty evaluations.” Not all administrators will be hard at work during the break, however. Eastern President Lou Hencken said he and his wife, Mary Kay, will be staying at their time share in Las Vegas for the week. “While they work, I get to play,” Hencken said of the administrators who will be on campus over break. “My wife and I always go out there. We plan to play golf, tour around the Grand Canyon, take in some shows,” but said he doesn’t do much gambling. “I’m looking forward to spring break probably as much as the students are,” he said. Hencken said he purchased the time share, which is near the Las Vegas strip, three years ago and has the option to move it around the country. In previous years he also has stayed in Florida and said the last time he was in Vegas, he and his wife saw Celine Dion. Also heading to a warmer climate is Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations, and her family. Nilsen, her husband and two teenage sons, will be heading to Naples, Fla. for the week. “My favorite thing is sitting in a beach chair, looking at the ocean and reading a book that isn’t work related,” Nilsen said. “I love to sit and read in the sun.” Nilsen plans to go shopping, see movies, go wave running and is looking forward to “not being tied to a computer, a cell phone or a fax machine.” Nilsen said this family vacation will be more important to her because her oldest son will be graduating high school and will be on a different spring break schedule when he enters college. “Usually, our spring breaks have been associated with water and sun,” Nilsen said, and mentioned last year she and her family went to Hawaii for her 25th wedding anniversary. “I love my job but sometimes it’s nice to have a little break,” she said.



Lou Hencken

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EDITORIAL

Fee increase appropriate proposal

Charleston’s proposal to increase amusement licensing fees from \$25 to \$75, while admittedly a steep increase, is not an unreasonable proposal.

The fee has been \$25 since the city passed the ordinance in 1945, Mayor Dan Cougill said last week.

The increase would apply to establishments that are licensed to provide entertainment such as pool tables and coin-operated machines.

A Charleston Licensed Beverage Association document said there is no amusement license fee in the home-ruled community of Champaign or the non-home-rule communities of Sullivan, Effingham and Salem.

However, in other university communities, licensing fees are common.

Urbana has a charge of \$73 per machine, which regularly increases, according to city officials. Another home-rule university community, Carbondale, has a \$25 fee.

Macomb, a non-home rule university community, also has an amusement licensing fee of \$13.75 each for the first two machines and a reduced rate thereafter.

Mike Knoop, Roc’s Blackfront owner and member of Charleston beverage association, said last week that the increase would be illegal because Charleston is a non-home-rule community.

Cougill said a community can become home-rule either by having a population of more than \$25,000 or community members voting in favor of a home-rule title.

He said before he came to office, the choice for Charleston to become home-rule was on an election ballot and failed.

Since the city has a population of less than 1,000,000, before legally passing any amusement license fee increases, according to the Illinois Municipal Code, Charleston must hold a public hearing.

The municipal code 65 ILCS 5/11-55-2 states, “Notice of the proposed increase shall be mailed at least 30 days before the hearing to the last known address of each person currently holding a license.”

Since the city has voiced the intention to hold a public hearing, the proposal is legal by state standards.

More than half a century has passed and the fees have never been increased, so a high percentage increase is not unreasonable.

The editorial is the majority opinion of the Daily Eastern News editorial board.

OPINION

Action makes the woman, not looks



Holly Henschen Associate Verge editor and monthly columnist for The Daily Eastern News

Henschen also is a senior journalism and political science major

She can be reached at hhenschen9@hotmail.com

March is Women’s History and Awareness Month. As a woman, I am aware that ladies have positive impacts on history not because of their trendy hair-styles or the smashing dress they wore to the Oscars, women who really change the world accomplish significant achievements through their actions rather than their appearances.

One such woman is Lois Gibbs. Gibbs learned from articles in a local paper that her New York neighborhood, including the school attended by her son, was constructed atop a toxic waste dump. Hazardous chemicals were seeping out of the ground and into basements and backyards in the neighborhood. Gibbs and her husband suffered from migraines, and her son developed epilepsy after starting kindergarten. When she attempted to relocate her son to a different school, the superintendent and Parent Teacher Association dismissed her concerns. Gibbs then petitioned door-to-door in her neighborhood, Love Canal, for cleanup of the school area and saw the sick realities of children with arthritis, all-to-common miscarriages, crib deaths and rampant cancer.

Gibbs, who had no post-secondary education or environmental activism experience, founded the Love Canal Homeowners Association in 1978. The group demanded the government close the school and pay for relocation of families in the area. Though some neighbors were annoyed with

“We are all safer because she decided to pursue change in her neighborhood, not a change in wardrobe or haircolor.”

Gibbs’ pursuits, fearing the negative press would decrease the value of their property, she persevered.

Through the investigation process, it was learned that Hooker Chemical Company, succeeded by Occidental Petroleum, had buried over 20,000 tons of toxic waste in Love Canal. The chemicals that were causing the adverse reactions in Gibbs and her neighbors included chloroform, Agent Orange ingredient dioxin, banned pesticides and other deadly toxins. Though local, state and federal governments and the oil company tried to deny health hazards and shirk responsibility for the atrocity, the Love Canal Homeowners Association fought for their right to a safe living environment.

Gibbs, with the help of the media, made Love Canal a household word. President Jimmy Carter even signed an emergency bill buying the homes in the neighborhood. The public attention directed toward toxic waste sites forced legisla-

tors to pass the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Liability Act of 1980. The act, also known as Superfund, provided government funds to identify toxic waste sites and initiate clean up. Superfund remains on the federal budget today. The Environmental Protection Agency currently lists over 11,000 toxic waste sites on its national priorities list. Currently, 47 of these are in Illinois, according to the state EPA Web site.

Gibbs is currently executive director of the Center for Health, Environment and Justice, which she founded. She has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the State University of New York at Cortland, New York, the 1990 Goldman Environmental Prize, the 1998 Heinz Award and the 1999 John Gardner Leadership Award from Independent Sector. Gibbs gained this recognition through effective use of resources because she identified a problem and crusaded to correct it. Her contribution to national and international history is governmental responsibility for toxic waste. We are all safer because she decided to pursue change in her neighborhood, not a change in wardrobe or hair color.

Gibbs’ valiant leadership characteristics are more worthy of admiration than a captivating smile or shapely derriere. Maybe Lois was born with it, but I’m certain she does not owe her drive and determination to Maybelline.

Cartoon by Brent Smith



YOUR TURN: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

View on homosexuals inaccurate

In reading the letter to the editor in the March 1, 2004 edition of *The Daily Eastern News*, I found myself baffled by the realization that a student among us could be so close-minded.

Throughout this letter, this individual stereotyped the homosexual population entirely inaccurately. It appeared that he was labeling gays as theophobics (Christphobics). I personally know numerous homosexuals who full

heartedly believe in God and pursue a healthy relationship with him.

It seems that it is important we address the separation of state and church. To clarify, a civil union is the joining of a couple through the government as opposed to through the church. I believe that it is only right that all people be treated equal.

The author, Ralph Rounds, also compared gay marriages and alternative lifestyles to, “Let’s

allow four women to marry three men or two men to women and then for insurance purposes, they can marry each other.”

However, he did not stop there. He stated, “In the name of alternative lifestyle, let four adult

women marry a 14 and 16-year-old boy, and then to make sure it’s equal and all, the same can go the other way for me.”

Sarah Chance, sophomore, recreation administration major

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: The Daily Eastern News accepts letters to the editor addressing local, state, national and international issues. They should be less than 250 words and include the authors’ name, telephone number and address. Students should indicate their year in school and major. Faculty, administration and staff should indicate their position and department. Letters whose authors cannot be verified will not be printed. Depending on space constraints, we may edit letters, so keep it concise. Letters can be sent to *The Daily Eastern News* at 1811 Buzzard Hall, Charleston IL 61920; faxed to 217-581-2923; or e-mailed to jpchambers@eiu.edu.

Editor's note: These essays are the top three winners in the upper division of the Cultural Diversity Essay Contest. The contest was open to any undergraduate student enrolled in an English course during the fall of 2003. Submissions were judged on how well each approached issues of cultural diversity. All essays were cut for space reasons.

Changing diversity in everyday experiences

FIRST PLACE

Women oppressed

Nawal El Saadawi's stories focus on Arab women's sexuality and legal status.

Saadawi, a feminist Egyptian writer, medical doctor, and sociologist, was imprisoned in 1980, under the Sadat Regime, for her alleged involvement in "crimes against the state." Her release came in 1982, and afterward she received death threats mostly from Islamic fundamentalists who opposed her feminist writings.

Two of Saadawi's most controversial novels are *Woman at Point Zero* (1975) and *God Dies by the Nile* (1974). In these novels, I assert Saadawi candidly and vividly exposes the sexual oppression and exploitation of women in the Arab world through the raw portraits of Firdaus, the educated prostitute, and Zakeya, the poor illiterate village woman.

Woman at Point Zero is based on the true story of an educated prostitute who is sentenced to death for killing a pimp in Cairo. Firdaus' life story reveals the oppression she suffers at the hands of family members, her husband and male strangers. As a young girl, one of Firdaus' first experiences with sexual exploitation occurs when she questions her mother after seeing her father at a weekly prayer service.

The mother's physical violence against young Firdaus for asking an innocent question about her own procreation portrays the oppression and physical abuse that she suffers at the hands of a family member. Firdaus' circumcision represents a form of oppression because her mother tries to stifle Firdaus' sexual awakening and potential for sexual pleasure in the future.

The difficulties even educated Arab women encounter in a male-dominated society are clearly depicted in *Woman at Point Zero*. Saadawi shows that after Firdaus realizes that men cannot be trusted, she acknowledges she must survive by herself. However, her society will not allow her to find a respectable job that pays sufficient wages. Thus, Firdaus is forced back into prostitution and begins to work for the pimp Marzouk.

For the first time, Firdaus feels she has some power and control over her life, until Marzouk insists on marrying her. She rebels and feels she must somehow escape from his control: "I continued to look straight at him without blinking. I knew I hated him as only a woman can hate a man, as only a slave can hate his master." This becomes the turning point in Firdaus' life, and she decides to free herself from Marzouk and from all men, no matter what the cost. She stabs him with a knife repeatedly and is arrested for murder.

Murdering Marzouk sets Firdaus free from his abuse and cruelty. While sitting on death row waiting for her execution, she feels she has defied society and the rules



Ann B. Hudson

that oppress and exploit women. For Firdaus, death is a welcome alternative to the life she was forced to live in a male-dominated society. In her mind, death sets her free from exploitation and oppression.

In *God Dies by the Nile*, Saadawi exposes the exploitation of lower class, less educated women by males who misuse political and religious power to exploit women sexually. These men use treachery and corruption to accomplish their means and to possess the women they desire sexually.

Unlike Firdaus, Saadawi's character Zakeya is an uneducated village woman whose young nieces, Nefissa and Zeinab, are exploited by men in high political and religious positions. Nefissa is impregnated by the mayor of Kafr El Teen and forced to leave the village and give up her child. The mayor, like many of his contemporaries, abandons Nefissa and denies all responsibility for fathering their child. His character provides a clear portrait of men who misuse political power to exploit women and remain protected by their position of authority:

The mayor, who has repeatedly and successfully used his political and religious influence to have his way with women, decides he wants Zeinab, Nefissa's sister, for a lover. He convinces one of his confidantes, Haj Ismail, to persuade her to be his housekeeper through the use of religious coercion. Zeinab, who is highly religious and obedient, follows Ismail's instructions believing that they are direct commands from Allah. Thus, through the misuse of religion, the mayor achieves what he desires, and Zeinab finds herself an unwilling sexual prisoner of the mayor's lust.

For both Zakeya and Firdaus, counter-violence is the only option that sets them free from oppression and suffering and provides them with a sense of power and freedom. Although both women are imprisoned and sentenced to death, they feel they have severed the chains of oppression imposed on them by a male-dominated society.

Through these tragic characters, Saadawi lucidly and candidly exposes the sexual oppression and exploitation of educated and uneducated Arab women at the hands of male family members and men in positions of political and religious power. She depicts the misuse of power and the misinterpretation of religion as instruments used to instill fear and facilitate the oppression of women. Tragically, for Zakeya and Firdaus, it takes counter-violence and their own death to bring about a sense of power and freedom to their desperately hopeless and powerless existence.

SECOND PLACE

Free your insecurities

You walk into Wal-Mart and start to wander through the bread aisle. You smile at the woman next to you searching for her perfect bread choice. You seem to share that oh-so-common bond of searching for the best Bunny bread at the lowest possible price.

Once you've found yours, you happily walk out of the aisle. Suddenly, you see a woman in the middle of the aisle in a wheelchair with her mouth open and her head cocked to one side. You can tell this woman has mental as well as physical disabilities just by her appearance. So what do you do?

If you are like the thousands of other people who feel uncomfortable in this social situation, you turn your head and act as if you don't see this person, as if she is non-existent or you're invisible. Either this, or you give the woman a half-guilty, uncomfortable smile and quickly look away so as not to draw any more unnecessary attention to the small social encounter. You then continue on with your shopping and try to forget why that tiny circumstance could make you feel so uncomfortable.

But why do we do this? Why is a heart-felt smile and a warm hello so absurd a greeting for a person with disabilities? Why do we feel such a sense of unaccounted for guilt when we view a person with these characteristics?

The answer is a bit hazy. We are confused about what type of treatment is expected and appreciated by people with disabilities. Maybe we assume they are offended by our looking at them because they think we'll only concentrate on their differences. Maybe we think they may feel we're making fun of them or judging them if we look them in the eyes. Or perhaps we just feel guilty that we enjoy a "normal" life free of such disabilities when they can't.

Regardless of what our reasoning is and no matter how selfless our intentions may be, we are only hurting people more by choosing to treat them differently based on disabilities.

For some reason, we feel compelled to look away or treat people like a woman we might see in the bread aisle in altered ways because we feel sorry for them. I know I acted that way before my trip to Canada for alternative spring break.

However, what I learned from my trip is that many people with disabilities want nothing more than to be treated as everyone else. After forming relationships with some incredible people with disabilities at L'Arche Daybreak, I've realized I am not doing people a favor by looking away from physical disabilities. People with disabilities are people with real emotions, goals and relationships who crave to be accepted and play their own roles in society just like everyone else.



Beth Sellers

I think my "family" at L'Arche Daybreak, Toronto taught me this better than anyone else could have. There are many L'Arche sites all over the world, but each site is set up with the same principle of kindness and community, having an almost 1:1 ratio of residents with disabilities to assistants all living in small group home settings together. The homes are set up "family-style," having roles for each member to play within the home.

For example, each member of each household is responsible for performing certain household activities each day, whether these are washing dishes, preparing dinner, leading prayers or simply providing laughter at the dinner table. Strong bonds and friendships are formed within each home and throughout the community because of the base premise of compassion, respect and religion that exists at each L'Arche site.

While in my home, I was able to bond with all of my "family" members in different ways. I played countless duets on that old, black, musty piano with Peter the "musical man," who could play any song from any musical by ear. I sat on the blue and pink flowered couch in the middle of the day looking through Princess Diana articles with Annie from England. I took part in routines of going out for Starbucks coffee and donuts at 8:00 almost every night as a group, drawing pictures with the old crayons and construction paper in the family room with all my family members, holding hands and praying together around the kitchen table each night and so much more.

Slowly, I began to realize that I had been shutting myself off to a world of amazing people before this experience for no reason. I learned that I had been seeing some people solely as people with disabilities and had not taken the initiative to see them as people with their own roles to play. I am so thankful that I had this experience to show me that people with disabilities are just that, people who happen to have disabilities. We, as so-called "normal" people, need to learn to look at them as people first, just like we view everyone else.

So the next time you're at Wal-Mart and happen to see someone like Peter or Annie and feel that urge to close up and make yourself invisible, take a moment and remember that behind that mask of disability lies a person who craves love, respect, acceptance and a role to play just like you. So go ahead, give him or her a smile!

End discrimination each day

HONORABLE MENTION

While walking home one night with my best friend, I felt like I was in two different worlds. I walked out of Andrews Hall appropriately dressed in my pink sweater, jeans and black shoes. She was dressed in jeans, a black sweater and black shoes.

We bundled up our coats and proceeded quickly across the street to our apartment. When we got to the parking lot I was in the middle of sentence, "Man I can't wait to hit the bed. I am exhausted," and she agreed with a head nod as if to say "I am with you."

We then heard screaming out of the window of a gray pickup, "Suck my dick you niggers. Wanna come and have a good time you niggers," and "Hurry up and get in the house you niggers."

I stopped dead in my tracks, and when I turned around I was in a cotton field with a burlap bag across my shoulder. I was lined up in a row in the heat. I was dressed in a flowered dress and very thin

shoes.

I stopped for a second to wipe the sweat from my brow and I heard, "Hurry up and pick that cotton we ain't got all day out here."

In one fell swoop, Nov. 13, 2003 made me feel as if I were back in slavery. In this I will uncover what discrimination means, the effects it can have on a person, what will happen to the world if it is not stopped.

If you look up the word discrimination in the dictionary the definition is "treatment of consideration based on class or category rather than individual merit, partiality or prejudice."

That means that if I walk down the street, some people see me as just a woman. Some people see me as an African American woman. In some instances, I may go into an establishment to get a job, and the person behind the desk may see me and disqualify my skills before I even open my



Anesha Leach

though because a lot of times people in this country are discriminated against for just that reason alone. On the job is not the only place this happens.

Sometimes I may walk into one of my classes and be the only black student in the class. Some of my peers may see me and automatically reject all that I have to say and think just because of the way they were raised. I can't blame them though because it is not their fault that is what their parents taught them. It is sad to

mouth. Although I may have years of schooling under my belt, and countless accolades to show for it, just because of my skin color they will dismiss all of that.

It is sad though because a lot of times people in this country are discriminated against for just that reason alone. On the job is not the only place this happens.

Sometimes I may walk into one of my classes and be the only black student in the class. Some of my peers may see me and automatically reject all that I have to say and think just because of the way they were raised. I can't blame them though because it is not their fault that is what their parents taught them. It is sad to

think about though because if they keep on going through life with that negative attitude they will get nowhere.

If you have never been discriminated against, then you should consider yourself lucky. I can't say until that day that I had ever been discriminated against either.

To some people it is unimaginable, but to those who lived through it and survived, it was a reality. I have learned in life that just because something does not happen to you directly doesn't mean it doesn't have the ability to affect you.

Someone may have said something to you over twenty years ago and you may have put it out of your mind. If what they said had been something negative, I bet you it would still have an effect on you to this day.

As a person, you can't help what family you are born into. You can't help what skin color you are and you can't help what

you look like. As a baby you did not ask your mom and dad to conceive you. What you can do though once you get here, and are old enough, is have an impact on what type of person you become. Be a good person in society. Discrimination in the world today is not going to be stopped over night. It is not something that someone can say, "OK I want the world to be discrimination free," and it is. What can happen though is if people take the time to think before they speak and act, we can start over. We can have a new beginning but it will take effort, time and commitment. The only way the world will become a better place is if we make it a better place. If we don't start now, what happened to me will continue to happen.

Discrimination is not something easy to deal with. It is not something that is positive either. All we can do is try the best way we can to put an end to it.

Tentative assessment keeps county taxes even for all

◆ *Department of Revenue releases tentative balanced assessment*

By Michael Schroeder
CITY REPORTER

For the second straight year, the Illinois Department of Revenue issued a tentative property assessment equalization factor of 1.00.

This factor is often referred to as the multiplier, an Illinois Department of Revenue press release said. The purpose of this is to have a uniform property

assessment across all counties.

Mike Klemons, Department of Revenue spokesman, said the multiplier is necessary to keep one county from having a disproportionate tax.

The state has 6,600 local taxing districts. Many of these, such as school districts or fire protection districts, overlap more than one county.

"It evens it out on both sides," Klemons said.

If multiple counties dump into one school district there is a possibility one county is paying a larger portion of the tax, he explained.

The county takes the sales price of

individual properties and compares it to the assessed values given to those properties by the county assessor, he said.

"We rate them high to low and take the middle as the average," Klemons said.

The law in Illinois states that the level of assessment should be one-third of the market value.

The multiplier makes sure this holds true. If, when the county assesses the multiplier themselves and it is not at one-third, the Department of Revenue can fix it by adjusting the multiplier.

The multiplier must still be finalized by the county, which is expected to be done in April. Klemons said they have

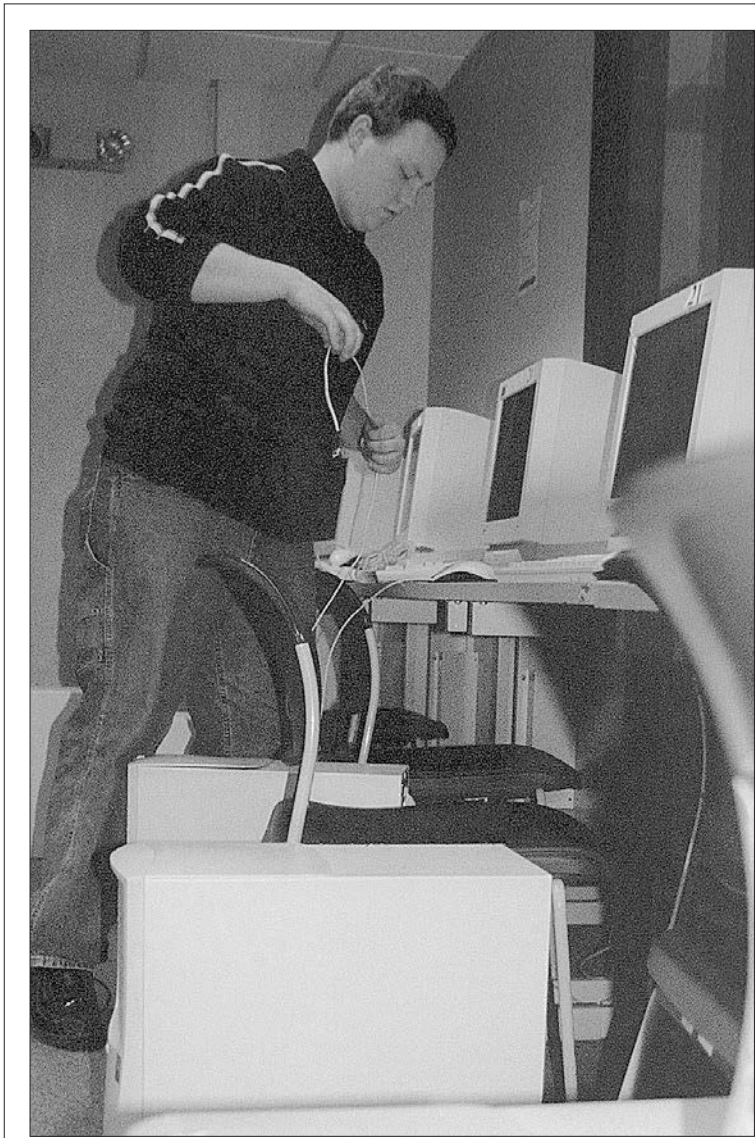
the right to further very it if they see fit.

Jean Tipsword, Coles County supervisor of assessment, said having a multiplier of 1.00 is ideal. It means no adjustment is needed.

The multiplier has been 1.00 for two years now. Before the year 2002, it was .9760, 1.0527, and 1.4022 in 2001, 2000 and 1999 respectively.

"In 1997, which had multiplier of 1.128, the sales were underdone and the county had a mass reappraisal," Tipsword said. "We reappraised the whole county."

Since then the multiplier has not been far from 1.00, she said.



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY JOSH REELEY

Packin' it up

Matt Briggs, a senior math computer science major, packs up computers in a Lumpkin Hall computer lab Thursday afternoon. This is in preparation for Lumpkin's huge network restructuring that will happen all next week.

Source of fires under investigation

By Nicole DeTroye
STAFF WRITER

Charleston firefighters look for many clues in their investigation for the source of recent fires.

Fire investigators, Chris Phipps, Dan Ensign, Pat Goodwin and Clarence Cassidy, scoured 208 N Seventh St., the house that caught fire last week, for clues as to how the fire started.

"We looked for the heaviest heat damage," Fire Chief Darrell Nees said, "because that generally indicates the area of the fire."

Investigators also noticed the condition of the fuse box, which appeared to produce a large amount of heat, Nees said.

Several clues helped investigators dictate the blaze started in the wall-mounted fuse box, as it indicates the fire had burned there longer than anywhere else.

When investigating the cause of a fire, Phipps explained that the process is like putting together a puzzle.

"We put pieces of a puzzle together by knowing the chemistry of fires," Phipps said. "Parts and pieces of that puzzle come from different resources; info from witnesses or repairmen, signs that the fire indicates, the rate the fire spreads and the color of the flames."

Phipps also said investigators have to know a little about electricity, stoves, ovens and anything else that would cause a fire.

Fires are not always caused by accident, Nees explained. Investigators also look for many telltale signs of arson when investigating a site.

"(Students) should be concerned because there have been several dorm fires—several of which resulted in fatalities. If you have a fire in your dorm room, it affects the entire university."

—Darrell Nees, Charleston fire chief

"We look for burn patterns that accelerants have been used, the presence of combustible liquids that are not supposed to be there and gasoline residue at fire scene," Nees said. "We also look for several locations of a fire, the condition of the property and whether everything is still in the house."

Homeowners should be aware and concerned about ways to protect their homes against fire.

"Don't smoke in bed," Nees warned. "Properly dispose of smoking materials. Don't run electrical cords under rugs. Make sure electrical work is done up to code. Store liquids and combustibles in storage areas and do not try to throw out your own water pipes."

But homeowners are not the only ones who should worry about fire.

"(Students) should be concerned because there have been several dorm fires - several of which resulted in fatalities," Nees said. "If you have a fire in your dorm room, it affects the entire university."

According to the United States Fire Administration, cooking is the leading cause of fires on college campuses, closely followed

by careless smoking and arson.

Many factors contribute to dorm fires. The improper use of 911 notification systems delays emergency response. In addition, evacuation efforts are hindered since fire alarms are often ignored and because of lack of preparation and preplanning, building evacuations are delayed.

According to the administration, vandalized and improperly maintained smoke alarms and fire alarm systems, the misuse of cooking appliances and overloaded electrical circuits and extension cords also can contribute to dorm fires.

Eastern takes many precautions to guard against possible fires. During Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring breaks, resident assistants check each room for fire hazards. They also check the fire detectors in all residence hall rooms.

"Even though the students are not in the building (during breaks), the fire alarm systems are still in place," said Mark Hudson, director of housing and dining. "The fire alarms are hooked to fire department for quick assistance in case of a fire."



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RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

Ten nominated for executive board positions

By Laura Gekas
STAFF WRITER

The Residence Hall Association took nominations for its top five executive board positions, which will then be chosen March 25. The nominees for president are Lindsay DiPietro, a freshman mathematics major, and Margaret Bookie, a sophomore special education major. For vice president there is Lance Ellington, a sophomore history major, and Erin McGovern, a sophomore psychology major. Other position nominees include Kristin Cilek, a freshman undeclared major, Anna

Pougas, a junior family and consumer sciences major, Erin Keefe, a sophomore mathematics major, Kristen DeVito, a freshman undeclared major, Julie Prisco, a sophomore early childhood education major and Heather Long, a freshman journalism major. Some of the qualifications consist of having 2.25 grade point average, living in a residence hall next year and being able to move



Nachel Glynn

back on Aug. 15. Nominations also were taken for positions in the National Residential Hall Honorary program, which is an honors program that focuses on community service and recycling. These include Doug Shrader, a junior speech communications major, Devin Bucke, a junior biological sciences major, Erin Quinlan, a senior career and technical education major and Jason Polensky, a junior social science major. Plans were discussed in collaboration with Student Body President Caleb Judy for the April 24 Bucket Brigade. Teams will be assigned to paint different houses around

the community for families in need. “Bucket Brigade falls on the same weekend as Kid’s Weekend, so if you’re not a kids kind of person, this is the perfect way to spend the day,” said Nachel Glynn, RHA president. RHA is also looking for students to come out and hear the candidates running to be the new director of minority affairs. There are two candidates from Illinois and one from Texas, the dates are between March 24 and April 2. The Residence Hall Association will hold the next meeting at 5 p.m. on March 25 in the basement of Andrews Hall.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Bylaws approval make council official organization

By Stephen Larrick
STAFF WRITER

The Student Leadership Council Thursday discussed the Student Senate’s approval of the council’s bylaws. Lisa Flam, student vice president for student affairs, said the senate unanimously approved the bylaws Wednesday. “Us having our bylaws approved and being part of Student Government is just the first step in us being recognized as a legitimate, fully functioning organization,” Flam said. Student Body President Caleb Judy said the bylaws will help benefit the student body. “It’s definitely a council that’s

going to benefit all the student organizations and all the students and getting the bylaws is the first step,” Judy said. “It’s going to do good things for the campus.” Flam said the bylaws are just the beginning of the council. “It’s like when they break ground for the first time on a new building,” Flam said. “We’ve broken the ground and we’ve got things established; Student Leadership Council isn’t going anywhere unless those bylaws are removed from Student Government.” Flam said the Student Government discussed the Recognized Student Organization funding under the finance committee and that a few senate members did not like the original


wording, “establish RSO funding opportunities.” “They amended it to say ‘look into establishing RSO funding opportunities,’” Flam said. Amanda Bennett, a freshman family and consumer sciences major and Michelle Johnson, a freshman business management major, were appointed co-chairs of the finance and records committee. The council is still looking to fill its last coordinator position for the community service committee. Matt Kulp, chair of the senate Housing Committee, briefed the council on future finance issues and said that there are currently five boards funded by the Apportionment Board and that the council will try to become the sixth board funded by the AB. “Our goal is for the beginning of next year, to go to AB and request money from them to fund RSOs,” Kulp said. “Basically, we would ask for a percentage of their surplus to fund RSOs. It is student fee money, so it should be given back to the students. So this is a very direct way of giving the students back their money that they’ve paid.” Ken Bauer, the council’s public relation coordinator, will be working on the council’s Web site during break and it should be up and running by March 25. “The big service that the Web site will give is by promoting the RSOs and their functions, which is actually

the primary reason the Student Leadership Council got together in the first place,” Bauer said. “Also, on top of that they will be able to get information about their functions out to other RSOs ... and it will help them from planning RSO functions at the same time that might compete with each other.” “This will actually be the first service that is available to RSOs and the RSOs that attend 75 percent or more of our meetings will have a bigger advertising space on our Web site than others,” Bauer said. The Student Leadership Council will hold its next meeting at 6 p.m. March 25 in the Kansas Room of the Martin Luther King Jr. University Union.

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ACROSS

1Triter writer?

5Old toy trademark

9Got through

14Comics canine

15Lottery cry

16Santa Anna target

17Apologetic words at the end of a meal

20No-brainer

21Call to a crew

22Horse of the Year, 1960-64

23Disadvantage

25Considers barely dignified enough

29Go up and down

32Hair implant?

34Provide for

35Smart _____

37Marks for a score

39Storyteller's challenge

40Space

42Great Lakes city

43"Throw thine eye / On young boy": "King John"

44Polite turn-down

46Siege deterrents

49Clip for TV

51Clip joint figures

55Lead-in to "goodbye"

59"That's a shame"

60Lend _____

61Sleep activities

62River rising in the Cantabrian Mountains

63Level connectors

64"In principio, Verbum" (biblical phrase)

65Film private

DOWN

1Popular snack cakes

2Show flexibility

3Lawyer, often, in court briefs

4Partial to

5Groundbreakers

6Outstanding

7Bit of parental buck-passing

8With 18-Down, like some corrupt officials

9Is blind

10Numismatist's interest

ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

N	V	A	H	I	V	E	S	D	M	V	R			
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STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Student wants vote on Chief

URBANA (AP) — A student member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees said Thursday he will seek a vote next month on the retirement of Chief Illiniwek, the mascot of sports teams at the Urbana-Champaign campus.

Other trustees called the move misguided and promised to block it, and the board chairman criticized senior Nate Allen for bringing it up without notice.

The Chief, a student who dresses in buckskins and headdress and dances at sporting events, has divided the campus for years. Supporters argue the Chief is a tradition that honors the state's American Indian heritage, while opponents contend the Chief perpetuates a stereotype and demeans American Indians.

Allen, who favors retiring the Chief,

made the announcement following a string of passionate speeches for and against Chief Illiniwek. About 200 people attended the board's public comment session.

"As a student trustee, I'm supposed to represent my students. What I see going on is saddening and its going to get worse and worse and worse," Allen said.

Durango Mendoza, an American Indian whose daughter is an Illinois graduate, told the board: "The shadow that dances malignantly across the face of this community must be put away. Our children and our people require it."

Another opponent, Victoria Wade, cried as she spoke.

But Kara Huffman, a senior in aerospace engineering, argued that Illiniwek is a tradition that embraces and honors Illinois' heritage.

Suspect in robbery that ended in death pleads guilty

MURPHYSBORO (AP) — A former Southern Illinois University Carbondale student has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for her role in the 2001 shooting death of an alleged accomplice in an armed robbery.

Jahneria Singletary, 27, was sentenced Wednesday under a deal with prosecutors. She pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in the death of Tyree Cunningham.

Cunningham was shot by Singletary's boyfriend, Prentice Washington, when he entered Washington's apartment armed with a shotgun. State law allows anyone who participates in a forcible felony to be convicted of murder if someone is killed during the crime.

Senate candidates exchange blows on state's budget

CHICAGO (AP) — Democrats headed into the home stretch of their Senate primary race today after a night in which Illinois Comptroller Dan Hynes and state Sen. Barack Obama clashed over whether either of them had done anything to head off a huge budget shortfall in Springfield.

Hynes, trailing front-runner Obama in the latest polls, accused the state senator from Chicago of backing former Gov. George Ryan's public works spending program, which he said was to blame for the \$1.7 billion budget deficit now facing the state.

"He stood silent, he did nothing," Hynes told the debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters and WLS-TV. After the debate, he met with reporters and sharpened his attack, saying that the Chicago lawmaker "voted in lockstep with George Ryan because he wanted his share of the pork pie."

As the front-runner, Obama had been expecting his closest rival to turn up the heat as they battled their way toward next Tuesday's primary voting for the Democratic nomination to succeed U.S. Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, R-Ill., who is retiring at the end of his term.

Fees:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

"She'll have a tighter time line, but the report will be finished," Ward said.

The original proposal for the health service fee asked for a 4 percent increase and would raise the current amount of \$67.55 to \$71.60 for Fiscal Year 2005 for each full-time undergraduate student.

The grant-in-aid motion was failed 2-24.

On March 4, Student Body President Caleb Judy vetoed the health service fee motion because the senate suspended the bylaws to vote, and pass, the fee 13-9-1.

"You're only supposed to suspend the

bylaws for a justifiable emergency," Judy said. "I didn't feel like we were under an extreme emergency."

The senate needed a two-thirds vote to override Judy's veto, which would pass the motion. At a vote of 17-9, the motion was failed.

Student Senate Speaker George Lesica said the bylaws will have to be suspended once more so the senate can vote on the motion on March 24.

"It'll be right on the dot," Lesica said. "But (Kull) will get it in on time."

Lesica said if the senate thinks the new bills will help the students, then failing the bills was the right action to take.

"If the final bill we vote on is in the best interest of the students, then it will be worth it," she said.

Apathy:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

"We feel it's important to vote in the primary because those numbers are kept track of and the university has its own precinct," said Student Senate Speaker George Lesica. "We feel that the more people who vote, the more influence Eastern will have in Springfield."

The senate's drive still reflected an apathetic turnout among students registering.

"I don't think I'm going to," said Scott Thyer, a junior physical education major. "I'm registered to vote, but I haven't before. I don't feel like it."

Some students still do plan on voting when the polls open next week.

"I will be voting in because I work at the

county courthouse back home in Carlton," said Jessica Ogden, a junior early childhood major.

The ballot for the March Primary will include nominations and elections for a variety of local positions as well as the Democratic nomination for the presidential election, which will take place Nov. 2.

Sen. John Kerry has all but won the Democratic nomination. Kerry has already won the 2,162 delegates to earn the nomination and Sen. John Edwards, D-S.C., is currently his closest rival with 534 delegates.

Some people have expressed a concern about Illinois' primary being so late because they think they will not have any impact on who wins the nomination.

"I'm planning on voting unless John Kerry is the only one on the ballot," said Laurie Jewel, a sophomore political science major.

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PERSONALS

NON SEQUITUR BY WILEY MILLER

BOONDOCKS BY AARON MCGRUDER

G O L F

Team preparing to golf into Texas winds

◆ *Panthers to compete in Bearkat Classic this weekend*

By Matthew Stevens
SPORTS EDITOR

Eastern's talents from tee to green will be tested at the Bearkat Classic during the highly violent Texas winds this weekend.

The Panthers will be traveling to Huntsville, Tx. to participate in the meet hosted by Sam Houston State University but will be more concerned with the conditions in the sky than the opponents in the field.

The conditions this weekend in Texas call for wind speeds as high as 15 miles per hour (on Sunday) with increasing chances of precipitation possibly shortening the event similar to what happened to the Panthers last week.

Kyle Maxwell carted a two-under-par, 70 to lead Eastern men's golf to a fifth place finish (298 team strokes) at the rain-shortened, 18-hole Tri-State Classic hosted by Tennessee-Martin at the Winfield Dunn Golf Course at Pickwick Landing State Park.

Maxwell's 34 on the back nine was the second-best score posted on the latter half of the course as only six players shot below par on the back nine.

Dustin Sloat shot a team-best 34 on the front nine but was hurt by a 41 on the back to finish tied for 31st with a 75. Ben Wochner also finished with a 75 and stayed under 40 on both sides of the turn, shooting 36 on the front and 39 on the back.

Ryan Lambert closed the tournament tied for 65th with a 78 and Matthew Kockler rounded out the Eastern team with a score of 80.

The Bearkat Classic is the first Sam

Houston State University men's golf event to be held at the new Raven's Nest Golf Course.

Along with the adjusting to the different Bermuda grass in the Texas, the Panthers will be forced to keep tee shots and approach shots low to avoid the historically unpredictable gusts in the area.

Participating in the event will be Army, Boston College, Centenary, Iowa, Eastern, Louisiana Tech, Nicholls St., Oklahoma City University, Rice, Southern Illinois, Stephen F. Austin State, Texas-Pan American, Texas State University-San Marcos, Washington State and Western Illinois.

The favorite of the tournament may be Oklahoma City senior Tyrone Van Aswegen. The South African native won the Oklahoma Christian Invitational with a 2-under-par 138 and comes in with a scoring average barely over par.

Charleston native competes in LPGA round

STAFF REPORT

Charleston native Laura Myerscough competed in her first LPGA round as a professional Thursday as she teed it up during the season opening Welch's/Fry's Championship in Tucson, Ariz.

In 2003, she tied for 22nd at the LPGA Final Qualifying Tournament and earned exempt status for the 2004 season in three-hole, eight-way playoff, played nine events on the Futures Tour, where she recorded her career-best finish with a tie for fifth at the Aurora Health Care Futures Charity Golf

Classic and turned professional in June.

Myerscough shot a 3-over-par 73 at the golf course she played at during her four years at the University of Arizona.

Myerscough was the U.S. Women's Amateur Championship runner-up in 2000. From 2000-02, she was a member of the United States World Amateur Team. She was a U.S. Curtis Cup Team member in 2002 and an All-American at the University of Arizona.

The 2004 Tour rookie ended the day tied for 102nd and 13 strokes behind the tournament leader.

Myerscough's golf teacher since childhood is Eastern's head golf coach Mike Moncel and she was able to use Lantz Fieldhouse to keep the rust off her swing during the winter months in Illinois.

Jung Yeon Lee flirted with a 59 in the opening round of the 2004 season to take the early lead after the first round of play. The third-year Tour player missed a birdie putt on 18 to post a 60 (-10).

Veteran and annual leader in driving distance Laura Davies shot a 5-under par 65 which puts her at five shots back going into Friday.

Garth Brooks enters as pinch hitter in training

By The Associated Press

Country music star Garth Brooks had a new hit Thursday.

Brooks had fans on their feet and cheering after he singled in the Kansas City Royals' 10-7 loss to the Seattle Mariners.

At Peoria, Ariz., Brooks came in as a pinch hitter against left-hander Mike Myers in the ninth inning, hitting a grounder to shortstop Adam Jones. The rookie covered some ground up the mid-

dle to field the ball, and first baseman Dave Hansen couldn't quite make the catch.

It was ruled a hit, boosting Brooks to 2-for-42 in spring training games for the San Diego Padres, New York Mets and Royals. He's 1-for-3 this spring.

"I was even more surprised than the pitcher," said Brooks, whose only previous hit was a single off Mike Sirotko of the Chicago White Sox on March 21, 1999.

Fans cheered, and someone flipped the ball to the 42-year-old Brooks as he

removed his helmet and left for a pinch runner. He was limping slightly, saying later that he'd aggravated a hamstring he initially pulled last week.

"He might have a few days in the ice bucket," Seattle manager Bob Melvin said.

Myers was good-natured about giving up the hit.

"He's a friend of mine, from being involved with his foundation," Myers said. "So it was one for charity. Hey, the fans had fun, and you're paid to entertain."

Baseball:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

If the Eastern bats continue to perform like they did when the Panthers pounded out 16 hits and 10 runs in game three of the Mississippi series, the pitching staff may get all the confidence needed to pull off an upset. Despite Eastern losing the heart of its batting order to graduation last year, Schmitz has been pleased with the lineup to date.

"The bats have really been coming along fine this year," Schmitz said. "We need a few guys like (first baseman) Mike Gavin and (second baseman) Chris Uhle to pick it up a notch, but I think we will have a more solid and balanced lineup than in the past few years."

The Panthers will enter play with a 1-5 record, and have lost their last five tilts since a shocking upset of 2003 College World Series participant Southwest Missouri State to open the season. The Panthers record, however, can be somewhat deceiving as they have faced one of the most difficult schedules in recent memory. Schmitz said the team needs to keep their head in the game and the Panthers can get through this tough stretch.

"The key to all of this is having a good perspective," Schmitz said. "The team needs to stay focus because this weekend could be a bumpy ride. Last weekend we had six errors in one game and we can't have that in this series."

The weekend series at Pete Taylor Park/Hill Denson Field will get underway with a night game of Friday followed by two afternoon contests on Saturday and Sunday.

Hohenadel:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12A

games on the weekends much like he did with football.

He said even if he did move softball games to weekends, the games would follow the one-pitch format.

Linker said he thinks if he did move the games to the weekends, there would be a lot more forfeits. Linker feels students have better things to do on the weekends.

I tend to agree with him.

To be honest with you, I think weekend softball might be kind of fun. Turn this 12-inch intramural league into Chicago style softball. Except, you know, with gloves, a 12-inch ball and no beer. Wait, never mind.

Anyway, give this style of softball a chance before you go calling the Student Recreation center saying you hate it. Also, think about next year.

The new intramural fields will be ready for next season, and as Linker said, "It's not like it's chain linked."

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- Student Athletic Training
- TAGA
- Single Parents Support Group

Please bring an actual photo or a photo on CD with a list of those pictured (in order) to the Student Publications Office
THIS WEEK!!

Also thank you to those groups who have turned in their photos so far!

Please call 581-2812 if problems...

S O F T B A L L

Breaking a trend

◆ *Panthers now face classic after struggling for last three games*

By Aaron Seidlitz
SPORTS REPORTER

Another tournament begins for Eastern as the Panthers travel down to South Carolina for the Wolfe Sycamore Classic.

Eastern, which has struggled over their past three games, are looking to find some consistency within their pitching staff.

The Panthers' offense has been struggling to support the pitching staff causing the young pitchers to wilt the last couple of games. During the last two games, the young pitchers gave up a combined 18 runs.

That is why, going into the next tournament, Eastern is looking to change the trend that has been occurring. The diverse filed in South Carolina may prove to be quite a challenge for the youthful Panthers.

With teams like the Wolfpack of North Carolina State (6-11) and Winthrop (11-9-1), solid competition will be in the tournament.

While the Wolfpack are under the .500 mark, they may be a likely candidate for an upset for the Panthers.

In the early portion of its schedule, North Carolina State has struggled against teams that are about the same size as Eastern. These kinds of teams that have defeated the Wolfpack include James Madison, Appalachian State and Elon.

With these teams defeating North Carolina State, who is the biggest name in the upcoming tournament, the Panthers feel that they could make an impact on the tournament outcome.

Winthrop is one team in Wolf Sycamore Classic that has been solid this season and is barely over the .500 mark.

The Eagles have made a push over the last seven games in which they have won five of those final games.

The first win of the four was by 2-1, and after that the Eagles extended their margins of victory behind their offense. The next three games they scored six, nine and seven runs respectively.

The Panthers will be trying to turn around that three game losing streak. The freshmen pitchers that had been successful have now run into a tough time.

But what Panther coach Lloydene Searle wants is for this pitching staff and lineup to work out the rough spots before the Ohio Valley Conference schedule starts up on March 27.



Senior shortstop Mandy Lindwall works to pick off a runner Sunday morning against Central Connecticut State during the 2004 Wolfe Sycamore Classic.

Athletic teams show diverse score on and off the field

By Michael Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

On March 3, Eastern honored 128 of its athletes not for their performance on the field but off the field.

At the annual Scholar-Athlete Banquet, athletes were recognized in four categories based on their grade point average for the spring, summer and fall semesters during the 2003 school year.

Stephanie Bone, a health studies major from cross country, Nick Lang, a psychology major from soccer, Kate Taake, a social science major from rugby, C.J. Weber, a psychology major from tennis and Teri LaRoche a health studies major from soccer were all honored with the Presidential Award for graduating with a

cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher based on a 4.0 scale.

Over a dozen more athletes received the University Award for a grade point average between 3.75-4.00 during the 2003 calendar year. Thirty-one student-athletes were honored as Eastern Award winners for a grade point average ranging from 3.50-3.74 in 2003, and the remaining student-athletes were named as Merit Award winners for their 3.00-3.49 GPA.

Track and field assistant coach John McInerney praised Bone along with all of the athletes for excelling in the classroom.

"Hopefully, this shows that were about the bigger picture (grade not athletics)," McInerney said. "This is great for the many student-athletes who do well, but

it's nice when you have one or two from your sport that really stand out."

Eastern baseball head coach Jimmy Schmitz also was pleased with the turnout of athletes from his team. Right fielder Jeff Cammann, left fielder Pete Stone and pitcher Kirk Miller were a few of the handful on the Merit Award list.

"This has been our best year in the classroom," Schmitz said. "We had about 16 of our 30 guys with grade point averages right around 3.0."

As a former NCAA Division II All-American distance runner at Eastern, McInerney realizes how challenging it can be for student-athletes to manage their time between the classroom and the practice field.

"The students basically do a juggling act; it's very tough to maintain a high GPA," McInerney said. "Our kids rarely have a month off. We run cross-country from August until November then we head indoors from December through February and now we're back running for the outdoor season."

While McInerney and Schmitz stress academics to their athletes, the coaches said a majority of the athletes take it upon themselves to succeed in school.

Schmitz said in previous years the Eastern baseball team has been unable to allow players to hit the diamond because of academic problems. However, that is not the case this year as the whole team is working hard to achieve high marks in class.

"We did lose a few players last year to grades," Schmitz said. "But this season it seems like everyone is doing their part in the classroom."

McInerney noted student-athletes with solid academics will not only benefit once they leave Eastern, but this will reflect the goal of the program and is important in recruiting potential Panthers as well.

"Not many kids are going to turn professional in our sport so academics is very important, as it should be in every sport because the odds of turning pro are slim," McInerney said. "A high team GPA is a good recruiting tool to stress and it's nice for our athletes at Eastern to have awards given to them for their ability in the classroom."

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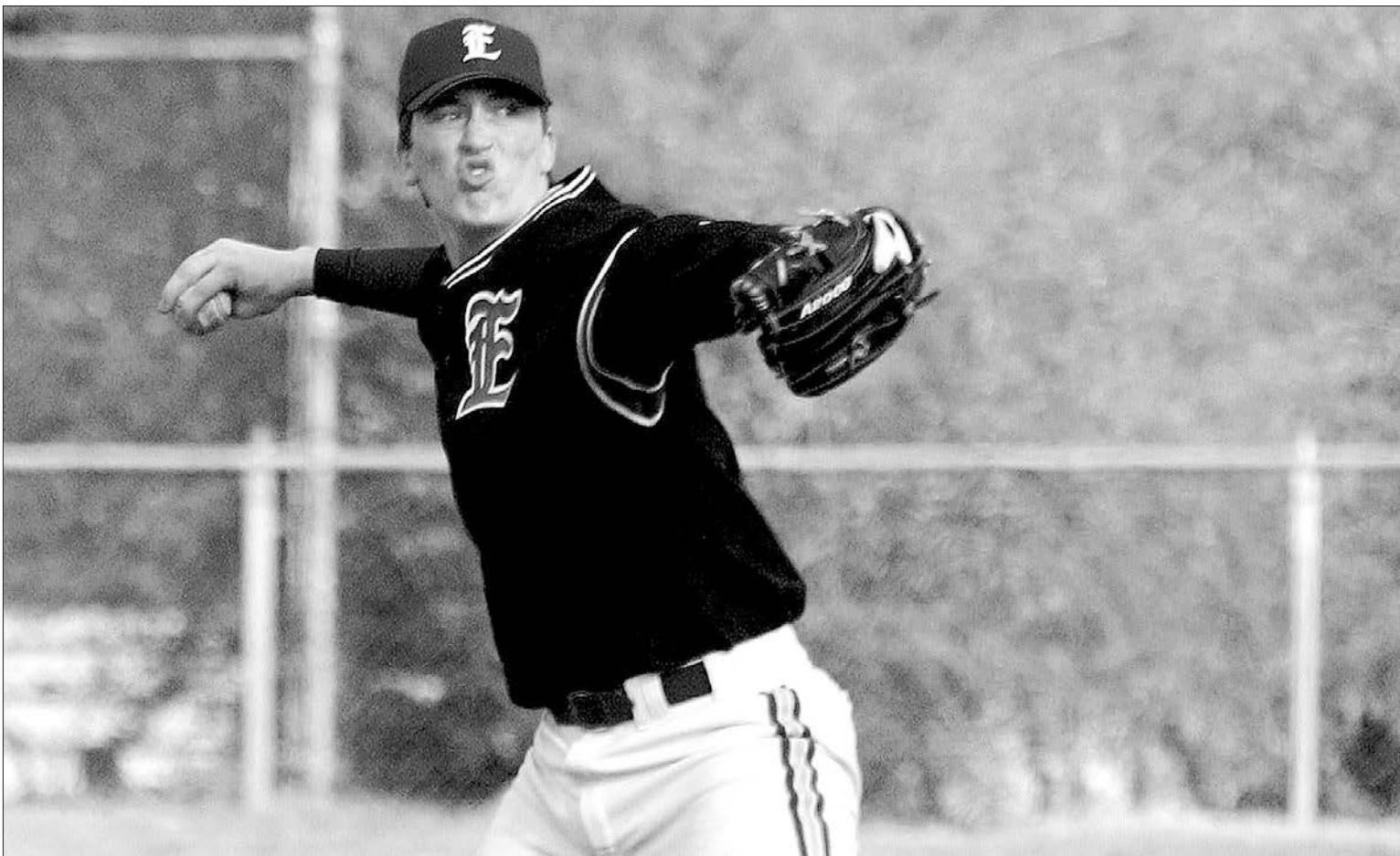
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Panther sports calendar

FRIDAY	Softball (Winthrop Ringer Classic)	11 a.m.	Rock Hill, S.C.
	Baseball at S. Mississippi	3 p.m.	Hattiesburg, Miss.
	M Golf at Bearkat Classic	All day	Huntsville, Texas
SATURDAY	Softball (Winthrop Ringer Classic)	11 a.m.	Rock Hill, S.C.
	Baseball at S. Mississippi	3 p.m.	Hattiesburg, Miss.

BASEBALL



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Freshmen third baseman Ryan Campbell practices on the football field last week. The team will face a three-game series in Mississippi this weekend.

Panthers face solid challenge again

◆ *Team will play Southern Mississippi this weekend*

By Michael Gilbert
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

The Eastern baseball team will embark on one of its toughest road trips of the entire season this weekend when the Panthers travel to Hattiesburg, Miss., for a three-game series with Southern Mississippi.

This will be the second consecutive week the Panthers go on the road to face a solid team. Last time out, Eastern was swept in a three-game series by Mississippi, who at 11-0 are ranked in every major college poll including No. 12 in "Baseball America."

With Southern Mississippi (12-1) early in the season, Panthers head coach Jimmy

Schmitz is expecting quite a challenge from the Golden Eagles, similar to what he witnessed from their instate rival.

"We've talked to a few schools about them and Southern Miss. is really good," Schmitz said. "Last season they were one game away from going to the Super Regionals, which is one step from the College World Series."

In seven of the Golden Eagles' 13 games, the team has scored at least 10 runs and winning every contest. The high water mark was 21 tallies against Oklahoma State in early March. Schmitz credits powerful bats along with superior coaching for the Golden Eagles' fast start.

"They're the most offensively minded team we've faced so far," Schmitz said. "They've got a lot of experience and (Coach Corky) Palmer does a wonderful job with

them. This weekend will be another test for us."

If the Panthers are to pass this "test," the team will need a better performance from their pitching staff. In the three games against Ole Miss, Eastern gave up 37 runs to the Rebels including 16 and 18 in games one and three respectively. Schmitz said the morale of the pitching staff is solid despite their rocky weekend.

"They're saying they lack confidence, but the guys are fine," Schmitz said. "The best way to go out and get confidence is for the team to take the field and perform. We (coaching staff) can say we have all the confidence in them, but they need to go out and get it themselves."

SEE BASEBALL ◆ Page 10A

WRESTLING

Seniors competing for NCAA championships

By Dan Renick
STAFF WRITER

Seniors Pat Dowty, 133 pounds, and Matt Veach, 165 pounds, will travel to St. Louis over spring break for the NCAA wrestling championships.

Junior Pete Ziminski is the first alternate for the NCAA West Regional, which means if any of the qualifiers from that region can't wrestle, he will take their qualifying spot. The deadline for qualifiers confirmation is Monday, so Ziminski still could get a call to compete in the tournament at heavyweight.

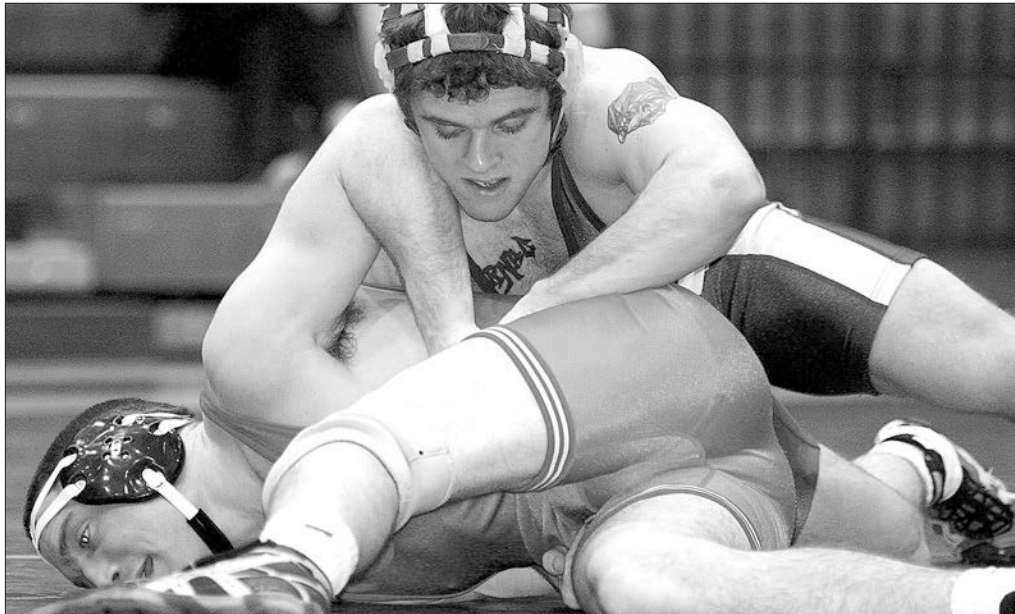
Head coach Ralph McCausland is happy about the close proximity of the tournament.

"We can stay home and don't need to travel too far," McCausland said. "It's a good situation for us and for friends and families coming."

The tournament will kickoff with an opening celebration on Wednesday at Union Station. The first session of wrestling starts the next morning at 11 at the Savvis Center. There will also be a session at 6:30 that evening. There will be sessions at the same times on Friday and the last session before finals start at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Before the final session of wrestling at 5:30 Saturday, there will be a grand march of All-Americans who will compete that day.

Dowty (19-8) will be competing in his third straight NCAA championship and Veach (28-5) is making his first trip to the tournament. In his first attempt at the tournament, Dowty lost his first match of the tournament to Phil Mansueto of Cleveland State 6-2. In wrestle backs he pulled off a last minute pin to win, but lost in a 15-9 in his final match. Junior year, Dowty got



DAILY EASTERN NEWS PHOTO BY STEPHEN HAAS

Senior Matt Veach wrestles against SIUE freshman Pat Healy in the 174-pound match Wednesday in Lantz Arena. Veach and senior Pat Dowty will travel to St. Louis over Spring Break for competition.

revenge, on then No. 11 ranked, Mansueto. He beat the senior 7-6 in the first round. In the next round, Dowty went up against Northern Iowa's Pat Garcia, who he wrestled against several more times in his career. In a rematch of the NCAA West Regional Championship, Garcia came out on top again, 5-4. In his consolation match Dowty lost Tom Clumm, a freshman

from Wisconsin.

Neither of the wrestlers know yet who they will face in the first round. The Division I Wrestling Committee selects 22 coaches who will meet Monday to make seedings for the tournament, assistant coach Antonio Vaughn said. Seeding's can be found online at NCAA.org after Mondays meeting.



BALL FOUR
John Hohenadel
SPORTS REPORTER

Intramural changes have chance

When I found out intramural softball would be different this year, I asked myself, "how different could it be?"

The truth is it could be very different.

Under last year's softball rules, there wasn't much you could have been confused about. The rules were pretty much the same as baseball rules. There were a few differences like foul outs and no base stealing.

Under this year's rules, each batter will get one pitch to hit. If the batter doesn't put the ball in play, it counts as an out. That's right ladies and gentlemen, NO WALKS!

Imagine Randy Johnson getting one pitch to strike you out. It doesn't even have to be over the plate. He could plunk you to get you out.

Come on now. Do you think recreation center-recreational sports program director Kevin Linker didn't think of that?

To ensure the batter sees a good pitch, the pitcher will be a player from his or her own team.

This one-pitch thing could be a good deal. I remember playing last year and when a team would get down, they would make the pitcher throw a strike. It may seem easy to pitch a 12-inch softball over the plate, but it's not. Needless to say, there were some long innings to endure: walk, after walk after walk. UGH!!!

I could never really see the point in watching a 12-inch softball coming at you in slow motion. When I saw that pitcher release the thing, I was ready to swing.

Linker said he's received more complaints about too many walks than he has about this year's one pitch, 30 minute game limit rule.

However, Linker did say after about a week of games his phone will probably be ringing off the hook with complaints.

The reason Linker switched to the one pitch format is because the intramural fields are not done yet. Because the fields aren't ready, there is less space for softball games than in years past. Even though there is less space to work with, the number of softball teams hasn't decreased.

Linker said there are in the neighborhood of 75 teams competing this spring. Normally those teams would be spaced out through eight fields Monday through Thursday giving teams enough time to play whole games. This year the teams have to play on three fields in the same amount of time.

This isn't the first intramural sport that has been affected by the field renovations. The intramural football season games were played on Sunday, instead of the usual Monday through Thursday.

I asked Linker if he considered playing the softball

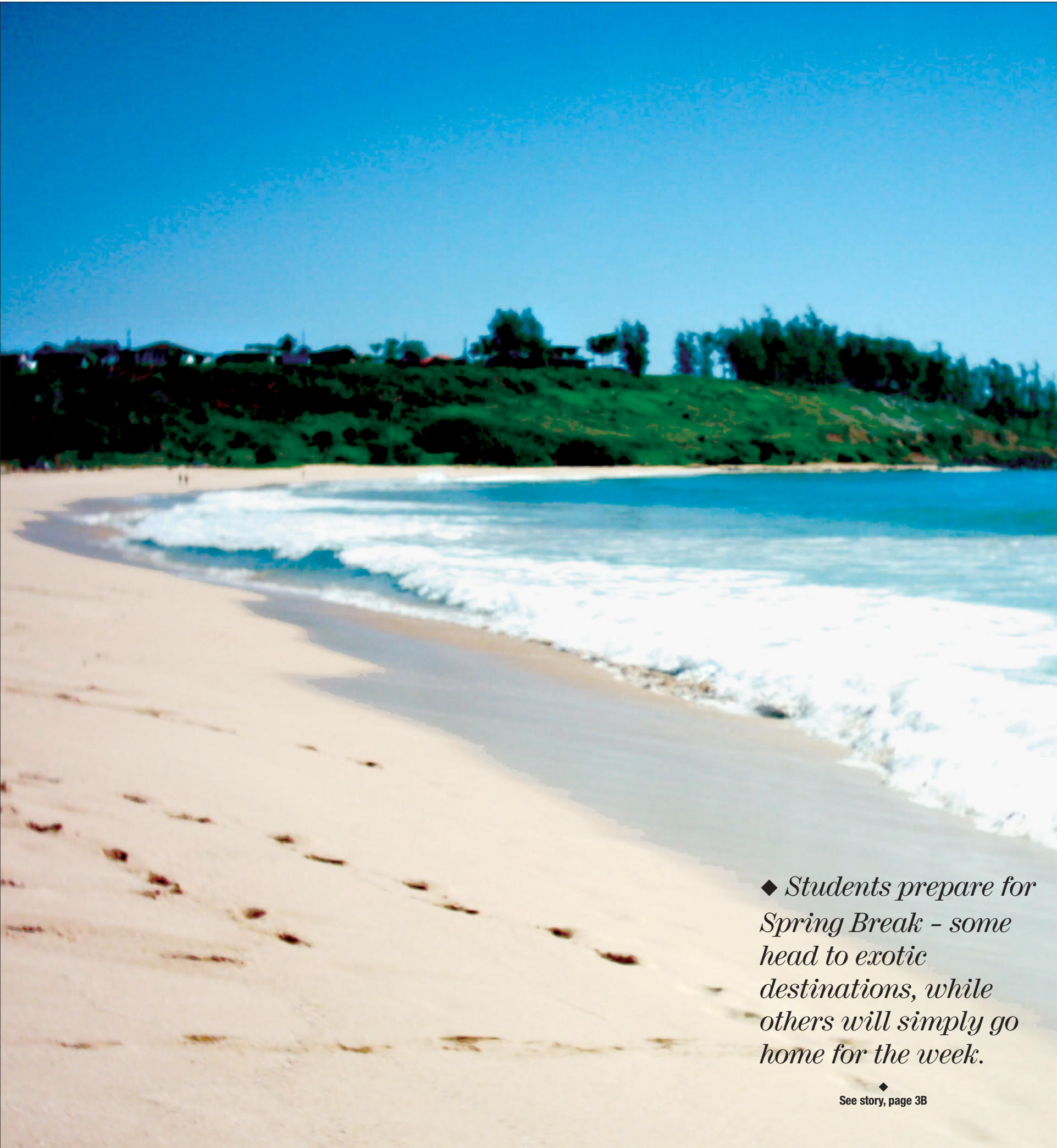
SEE HOHENADEL ◆ Page 10A



REVIEW THIS
Johnston's 'Hidalgo'
a throwback
to a simpler time
Viggo Mortensen's character
pays homage to the classic
heroes of cinema.

Page 5B
Grade: A

EIU STUDENTS gone WILD



◆ *Students prepare for Spring Break – some head to exotic destinations, while others will simply go home for the week.*

◆
See story, page 3B

VERGE PHOTO BY DAN VALENZIANO



ADVICE COLUMN...
Student looks for counsel about how to get through Spring Break without money or friends.

◆
Page 2B

GAME REVIEW
“NFL Street” brings football fantasy to reality.

◆
Page 8B

DVD REVIEWS
The first season of “Chappelle’s Show” offers even more offensive content than you can find on Comedy Central.

◆
Page 7B

CONCERT CALENDAR
Ziggy Marley, The Tossers and more set to perform over break.

◆
Page 8B

ADVICE COLUMN

Braving a broke break



Dan Valenziano
VERGE EDITOR

Dear Verge,
The state of Illinois has gone crazy and for some reason no major state universities have the same spring break. Maybe Illinois can't trust thousands of instate kids converging all at once or maybe it's just a secretarial faux pas, but it sucks anyway you slice it.
It's bad enough when you can't afford to go anywhere fun or sunny over break, but it's even worse when the only thing you have to look forward to is seeing friends, and you can't even pull that off.
So short of sleeping all day, drifting into a drug-induced stupor or getting a job and working for my daily bread or other entrepreneurial activities, what can I do with my spring break to while away a week when I actually have nothing to do? Bear in mind the fact I have very little money, a crappy car, little ambition and loose morals and a pretty face that will only take me so far.
THANKS.

- Crazy from the Heat



Holly Henschen
ASSOCIATE VERGE EDITOR

He said:
You're in luck. I've spent the better part of my life living in good ole' McHenry Illinois ... well technically up until a couple years ago I lived in unincorporated Ringwood. The town itself had a population of about 475 people. To say the least, I had to learn how to make my own fun. I don't really know what kind of town you live in so I'll do my best to make this advice fairly universal, but cow-tipping is just so much fun.
I think the easiest way to occupy your free time, if there happens to be nobody around to spend that time with, is to act like you did when you were a kid. Some people may call this behavior "childish" but it is by its very definition. You would be surprised how soul-cleansing it is to build a fort at the age of 20.
If you have nothing to do on a Saturday or Sunday during the day, head over to your local Supermarket. Those are the days that food retailers give out all sorts of free samples of their products. You get to taste all manner of things, pass some time and get full for free. What more could you ask for?
Personally, I'm a bit of an introvert anyway, so I like a good long walk or a solo canoe trip. Maybe you're not comfortable doing that sort of thing but if you are alone and you have some good weather, you might as well go out and enjoy it. You said you have a car and little money, so a short trip to a free park in your area could be just the ticket. Take a hobby with you when you go. If you write, bring a pad and paper.

Even if you don't write, I would suggest doing this. You might be surprised at what you find out about yourself when you sit alone and let random thoughts float through your head.
Our society focuses so much on busyness and social relationships that often times people don't know what to do with themselves when they're all alone. Use this time for relaxation and reflection—you may be surprised with what you find out.

She said:
Spring break equals free time, which is mighty scarce in the college lifestyle. Take advantage of doing nothing! It's the best pastime ever when you are otherwise constantly restrained by obligations.
Some of the coolest spring break activities are cheap or free.
Scan the library for a cool book or two to take home with you. You can pretend you're somewhere in Fictionland for a week. If you haven't read the Lord of the Rings trilogy, now would be a good chance to spend quality time in Middle Earth.
Not much of a reader? Write your own novel, poetry, etc. You could also get artsy with a disposable camera. Go on a walk everyday and snap photos of your interesting encounters.
Another cool out-of-the house spring break activity is camping. The weather is finally warm enough to spend time outside. It gets a bit chilly at night, so when spending time at your local state park, bring someone to keep you warm. Stock a cooler with food and beverages, and stare at a fire for a week. Good times!
The warm weather is also prime time for rummage sales and flea markets. Check the local paper for times and locations. The cheap novelties you can pick up at these places are unrivaled at any conventional retail outlet.
Chances are you can scout out a cheap concert or other entertaining event to attend.
If all else fails, it would be fun to see how much money you can get out of your parents for a week. If you casually mention all of the things you need to enhance your scholastic experience, they may cave and shower you with gifts. Visit all relatives in the nearby area, in hopes of handouts. In this case, there is such thing as a free lunch!
Have a good break—the semester is almost over!

E-mail any questions about life, liberty or the pursuit of drunken antics to Dan and Holly at eiuverge@hotmail.com

PREDICTIONS FROM THE ALL-KNOWING MAGIC EIGHT-BALL



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DAN VALENZIANO

Spring Break happenings

1. The Pixies will swing down from their Canadian tour and play a surprise show at Friends & Co.
Magic 8-Ball says: It is certain. Here comes your band.
2. Elves will sneak into Doudna Fine Arts Center and finish renovations.
Magic 8-Ball says: Better not tell you now.
3. Dennis Kucinich's campaign speech at University of Illinois-Champaign will muster so much enthusiasm he will win the Democratic primary in the state.
Magic 8-Ball says: Most likely.
4. Martha Stewart will be instilled as the new prime minister of Haiti ... and completely

- redecorate!
Magic 8-Ball says: Don't count on it. "It's a good thing," as Martha would say.
5. Jesus, disgruntled at the defamation of his name in Mel Gibson's "The Passion," resurfaces in Hollywood only to date Paris Hilton, party it up with P. Diddy and realize he can't bring himself to smite Mad Max.
Magic 8-Ball says: It is decidedly so.
6. Pepsi's iTunes giveaway backfires, forcing millions to realize MP3s aren't nearly as fun if they're not ill-gotten. Pepsi sales plummet as a result.
Magic 8-Ball says: Yes. Take that, copyright laws.

7. Cancun residents revolt against smarmy college kids invading resort towns this week and try to hold the collective mass for ransom before realizing no one is willing to pay for America's youth.
Magic 8-Ball says: Outlook, not so good.
8. Jim Henson, creator of The Muppets, rises from his grave to challenge Disney CEO Michael Eisner to a no-holds-barred cage match for rightful owner of his creations.
Magic 8Ball says: It is certain. But will Kermit and Mickey have their backs?

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Students flee Midwest on dawn of break

STAFF REPORT

Spring break is a brief period of respite from the cruel realities of the daily student grind. Class responsibilities, extracurricular involvement and other such pursuits are put on hold for one week, allowing students to engage in a host of activities, or in some cases, none at all.

Some students will travel to the hottest Spring Break destinations around.

Lindsey Trumper, a sophomore fashion merchandising major, said she is taking a cruise to the Bahamas with seven of her friends. Trumper said this is the first official “Spring Break” trip she has ever gone on, having visited her grandparents in Ft. Meyers, Fla. for the past two years.

“I don’t know what island we’re staying on,” she said. “I don’t care what boat we’re taking. I just want to be there.”

Trumper said the group will drive down to Ft. Lauderdale in a van to catch their ship.

“That’s going to be interesting,” she said.

St. Patrick’s Day occurs over break this year and many students plan to celebrate the holiday.

Meghan Wilson, freshmen business management major, said she plans to attend Chicago’s South Side St. Patrick’s Day Parade

Ryan Lee, a freshmen business major and Adam Gibson, a freshmen undecided major, said they are going to see Umphrey’s McGee over break.

The two considered attending a Primus concert but were unsure of their financial ability.

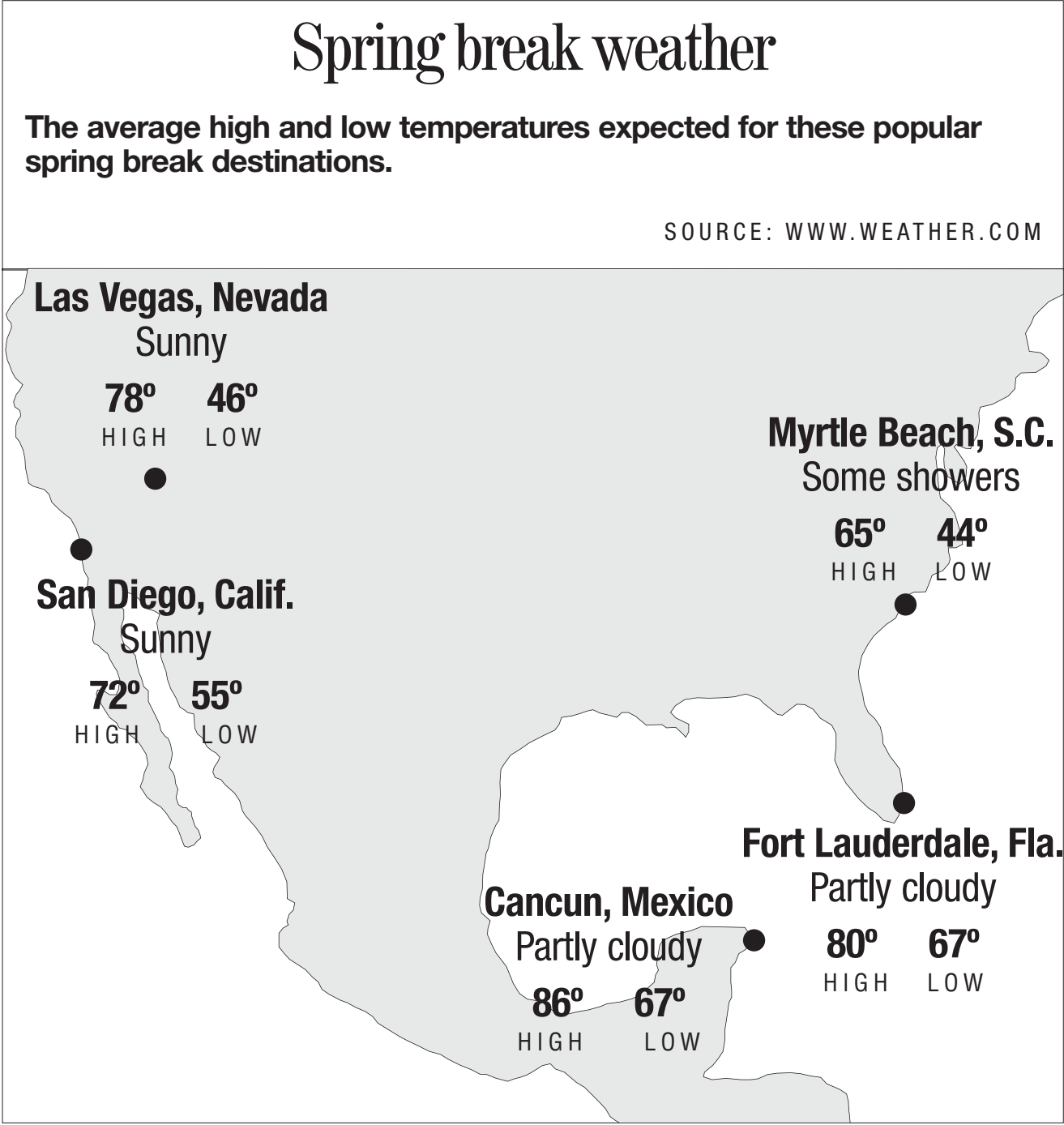
Rusty Koenig, a freshmen pre-med major was undecided on whether he and his friends will drive to Coco Beach, Fla., where his friend is a bartender.

“We’re driving, so it’s kind of pick up and go,” Koenig said. “If not, we’re going golfing.”

Koenig said he also planned to attend the South Side St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

Sebastian Cender, a freshmen undecided major, said he and some friends plan to drive down to Panama City, Fla. Cender said they planned to bring “fourteen cases of beer” along with the rest of their luggage.

“We’re not drinkin’ and drivin’,” he said.



Top spring break destinations

10. The Bahamas
9. Rosarito Beach/Ensenada, Mexico
8. Key West, Florida
7. Daytona Beach, Florida
6. Mazatlan, Mexico
5. Jamaica
4. South Padre Island, Texas
3. Lake Havasu, Arizona
2. Cancun, Mexico
1. Panama City, Florida



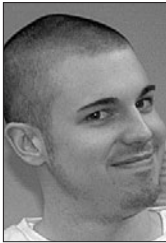
Courtesy of Travelchannel.com

QUOTE THIS

What are you doing during spring break?



Katie Bue junior family consumer sciences major
“I’m going to Colorado with my twin sister and friends to see family.”



Chris Jenkins speech communications major
“I’m finding Michael Strange and taking his thesaurus.”



Rita Reinhardt speech communication major
“Man huntin’ in da Lou.”



Talia Sawyer sophomore marketing major
“Just going home to sleep in my own bed.”



Andrew Stevens senior family consumer sciences major
“Vegas.”



Pam Haase senior family consumer sciences major
“I’m going to Cancun with my roommates.”



Rachel Janssen senior family consumer sciences major
“I’m going to L.A. and Hollywood to visit my brother.”

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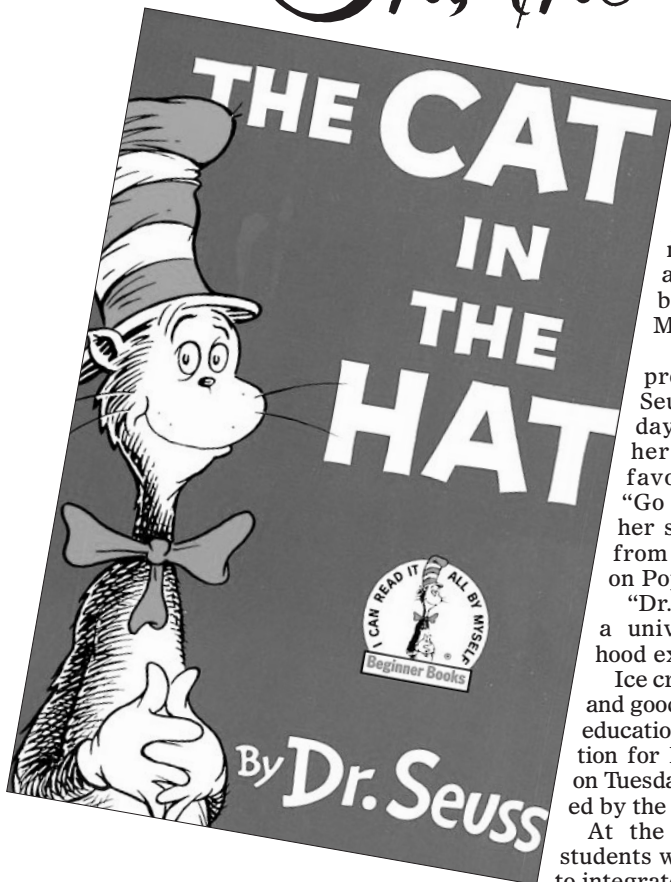
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10:30 am - 2:30 am
Friday & Saturday

Eat Lotsa BOXA

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Oh, the things he could write!



By Nicole Nicolas
FEATURES REPORTER

Dr. Seuss is remembered as a man who made reading oh-so-much fun and educational all in one. His 100th birthday was celebrated March 2.

Fern Kory, an English professor, celebrates Dr. Seuss' success in her everyday life when she reads her and her children's favorite Dr. Seuss book, "Go Dogs Go." Kory said her son learned how to read from Dr. Seuss's book, "Hop on Pop."

"Dr. Seuss is pretty close to a universal American childhood experience," Kory said.

Ice cream and cake "that is fun and good" for all at Eastern in the education department, a celebration for Dr. Seuss 100th birthday on Tuesday, March 23, will be hosted by the reading council.

At the celebration, education students will learn a different way to integrate Dr. Seuss into their lesson plans said Shannon Costello, a graduate assistant in the elementary education department. The event is free for education majors and begins at 7 p.m. in Buzzard Hall Room 2442.

Dr. Seuss' books are easy for beginning readers to navigate.

"It has a controlled vocabulary but it's not boring," Kory said. "(Seuss) brought things together so that it could be educational and entertaining."

Theodor Seuss Geisel, widely known as Dr. Seuss, obtained his pen name at Dartmouth University, according to the Seussville Web site. He was the editor-in-chief

of Jack O' Lantern, a humor magazine at Dartmouth. Geisel was fired from that job after he and his friends threw a party that violated school policies. He continued writing for the Jack O' Lantern under his pen name Seuss and later added "Dr."

Step aside J.K. Rowling; Geisel is still on top, selling more than half a billion copies of his books, according to *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

Geisel was not always going to be a writer, he originally went to school to be a teacher. His first wife, Helen Palmer, suggested he become an artist because he was always doodling. And so he did, according to the Seussville Web site.

In 1937, he published his first book "And to Think I Saw it on Mulberry Street," but not before it was turned down by 27 publishers.

One of his most popular books, "The Cat in the Hat," came about in 1957 and turned the children's book world upside down.

"I like them all, (but) I like that one the best. It was one of my children's favorites and I read it to them," said Tim Croy, assistant professor in the early childhood department. Croy started to love Seuss books once he started reading them to his children and teaching.

Geisel wrote the classic "Green Eggs and Ham" to prove to Bennett Cerf, the head of Random House Publishing, he could write a book using only 50 words, according to the Indianapolis Star.

"I had it ("Green Eggs and Ham") when I was younger. I remember reading it over and over," Costello said.

Another memorable book Geisel wrote is "Oh, the Places You'll Go."

"It opens up a world of possibilities up to young people whether to explore new friendships or careers," said Janet Carpenter, assistant professor in department of elementary education.

Elda Ueleke, a kindergarten teacher at Mark Twain Elementary School in Charleston, starts and finishes her school year with "Oh the Places You'll Go."

Kindergardeners at Mark Twain Elementary School created a tall, paper Cat in the Hat, brightly colored with red crayon stripes between white stripes, in honor of Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday.

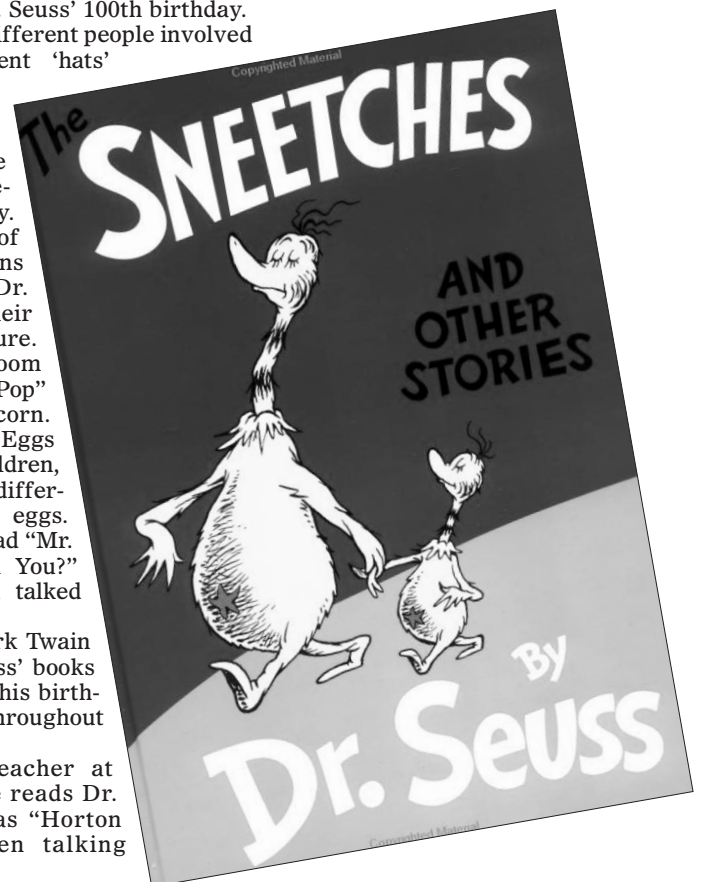
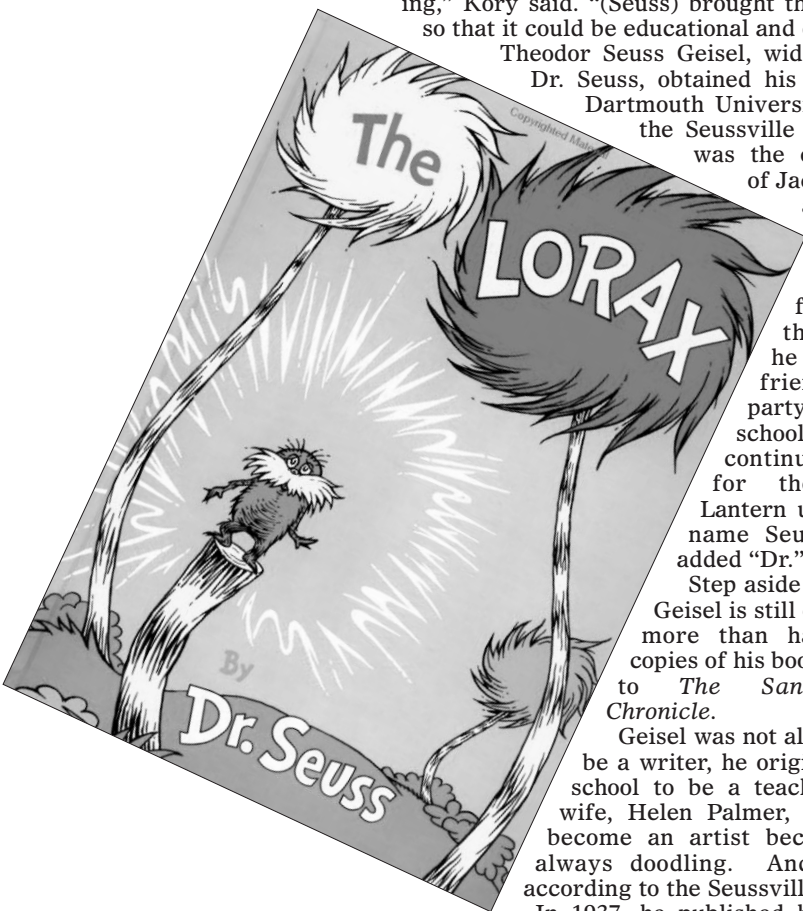
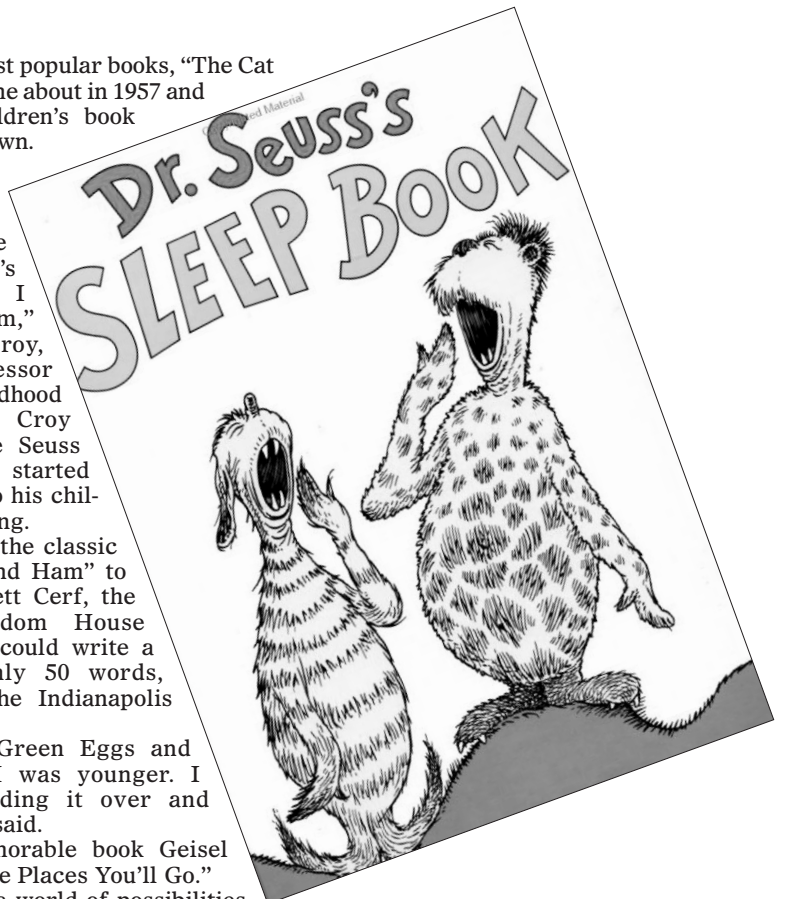
"(We) talked about different people involved in farming and different 'hats' they wear," said Heidi Phipps, a teacher at Mark Twain.

On March 2, the kindergardeners celebrated Seuss's birthday. Festivities consisted of four 25-minute sessions discussing four of Dr. Seuss's books and their connection to agriculture.

One of the classroom teachers read "Hop on Pop" while popping pop corn. After reading "Green Eggs and Ham" to the children, the class talked about different uses of pork and eggs. The next classroom read "Mr. Brown Can Moo, Can You?" and made butter and talked about dairy products.

The teachers at Mark Twain not only used Dr. Seuss' books for a teaching tool on his birthday, they also use it throughout the year.

Heidi Phipps, a teacher at Mark Twain, said she reads Dr. Seuss's books, such as "Horton Hears a Who," when talking about the alphabet.



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‘Hidalgo’ an old school tale of chivalry, honor

By Dan Valenziano
VERGE EDITOR

Let me tell you a little story.
When I was just a little movie critic, my brother Nick and I would watch old swashbuckling movies. We loved movies with Errol Flynn as the hero in either “Captain Blood,” “The Adventures of Robin Hood,” “In the Wake of the Bounty” or “The Sea Hawk.”

Nick and I loved watching these movies during weekends.

We would close the blinds to keep the glare off our old Zenith television, make popcorn and put it in the same large, dented tin bowl with flowers stamped into the top of the metal rim ... and we practiced our fencing. Although I sustained many wounds in my childhood, I never got hurt during these sessions. My mom bought us plastic swords – almost every week because we used them so much – at a local store in town. Nick and I would sit on the gray-check couch, calmly eating our popcorn until the sword fighting scenes came on. At that point, we would jump out of our seats with swords drawn and begin our epic battle.

I would jump up onto our dusty maroon chaise lounge screaming, “You’ll never take me alive!” Those were our Saturday afternoons.

When I sat down in the theater to watch Joe Johnston’s “Hidalgo,” starring Viggo Mortensen, I felt like I was back in my childhood living room with popcorn in one hand and my not-so-trusty blade in the other.

The story of “Hidalgo” opens with Mortensen’s character, Frank T. Hopkins, in a long-distance horse



race. He and his horse Hidalgo, a wild mustang tamed, win the race, beating out other riders with thoroughbreds. Hopkins had never been defeated in a long-distance race. After the race, the man who placed second in the race insults Hopkins’ horse, saying Hidalgo is not fit to compete against purebred horses.

This seems to be a recurring theme throughout the film, applied not only to horses, but also people – almost beating the viewers over the head with the lesson.

Hopkins is a dispatch rider for the Army and carries orders that lead to the massacre at Wounded Knee. Hopkins, who is half-Sioux

Indian (a fact he has managed to hide most of his life), loses his stomach for the work and joins Buffalo Bill Cody’s famous Wild West Show. During the shows, Cody (played by J. K. Simmons) introduces Hopkins and Hidalgo as the greatest long-distance racing team in the world because they are, as of yet, undefeated.

Because of this title, Hopkins is invited to compete in the “Ocean of Fire,” a 1,000-year-old, 3,000-mile race through the Arabian desert. Hopkins, now struggling with alcoholism, reluctantly accepts the invitation to compete since his fellow show-mates raised his entry fee between them.

When Hopkins and Hidalgo arrive at the starting point of the race, they are both ridiculed by other riders for having impure blood. They say Hopkins has no right to compete in the race because he is an “infidel,” and Hidalgo because he is not a thoroughbred.

Hopkins confesses to Louise Lombard’s Lady Anne that he is only in the race for the \$100,000 purse, but viewers get the sense he wants to run the race to prove to himself – and to Hidalgo – that he can be the man he once was.

Throughout the course of the race, Hopkins displays the uncommon old-school valor not seen in

“Hidalgo”
Joe Johnston, director
GRADE: A

many movies today. It seems Hollywood has forgotten its heroes of old, replacing them with huge explosions and catchy one-liners.

Hopkins is an “everyman’s hero,” a cowboy who rides like John Wayne, punches like Indiana Jones and throws a knife like Crocodile Dundee. These skills come in handy when Hopkins and his trusty steed have to deal with raiders, other riders bent on killing them to win the race and keep Hopkins from rescuing a princess during his journey.

Ultimately, Hopkins has to come to terms with the Indian heritage he has hidden so well his whole life.

The real theme of the film is that it is the man (or horse), not the pedigree, that makes one great. Hopkins and Hidalgo are ridiculed so much for their mixed-blood, viewers are almost drowned in this lesson. That was my only real problem with the film.

The cinematography in the film was stunning. The reel was packed with sweeping, colorful sunrises, treacherous quicksand, deadfall traps and never-ending deserts.

Many critics didn’t like the film because it is loosely-based on the actual story of Hopkins and Hidalgo. But they’re missing the point. The adapted story is largely fantasy, as is the film.

It takes viewers back to a simpler time in filmmaking. It’s about a man and a horse who are best friends. It’s about chivalry and honor. It’s about popcorn and plas-



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Black dominates Rock’n DVD

Ben Erwin
STAFF WRITER

Comedian W.C. Fields once warned of working with children or animals, and he was largely correct, but Richard Linklater’s “School of Rock” avoids typical saccharine sweetness and predictable clichés in a film that proves as endearing as it is funny.

Paramount’s Special Edition DVD release of the film adds a vast array of extras to the package and successfully, and hilariously, milks the film for all it’s worth.

The film revolves around Jack Black’s Dewey Finn, a guitarist recently fired from his previous band for inane shenanigans. With rent due and his roommate’s girlfriend nagging at him, Finn eventually lies to take a job with a hoity-toity private school to earn some cash. It is there, however, where Black discovers his students’ musical abilities and decides he can use them to win an upcoming battle of the bands.

On paper, there is little to like about Black’s Dewey Finn. He is an egocentric, obnoxious control freak and a liar who takes advantage of children. Black, however, manages to breathe an air of innocent

“School of Rock”

Richard Linklater, director

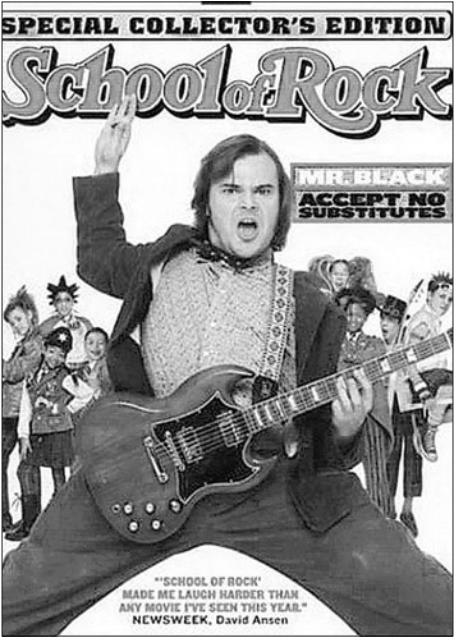
GRADE: B

sweetness into the seemingly vile character as the film progresses.

The film is far more than a cute story about musical savants and the scheister who rears their musical development; it’s the story of a man finding his calling as a music teacher.

Throughout “School,” Black blissfully blurs the lines between himself, his persona in Tenacious D and Finn. Black’s best roles have always been those in which the character being portrayed may not be too far from an element in Black’s real life, and Dewey Finn isn’t all that different. While he is not as acerbic as Barry in “High Fidelity” or as whiney as Hal from “Shallow Hal,” the lovable Dewey finally mines Black’s sweetness on screen.

The rest of the cast– Mike White as Ned, Sarah Silverman as Patty, Joan Cusack as Rosalie Mullins and a horde of child musicians– are competent, but “School of Rock” is ultimately Black’s tour de force and the



extras exploit this.

With a pair of commentaries– one from Black and Linklater and one with the kids– a pair of documentaries and Black’s MTV

“Diary,” Paramount packs more than four hours of extras onto a 90-minute film. And while the film is fast paced and funny, the extras add nuance to an otherwise broadly-stroked film with simple archetypal characters.

The commentaries are funny as well as insightful, with Black and Linklater dissecting the plot, characters and the steady progression of the film. Likewise, Black begging for the use of Led Zeppelin’s “Immigrant Song” or a segment of the kids’ journey to the Toronto Film Festival are interesting, if not useful, extras.

Like many DVD packages, the extras on “School” are as self-serving as they are entertaining. Paramount should be commended for the sheer amount of material thrown into the package; much of it is entertaining, but otherwise marginal at best.

“School of Rock” finally gave Black the opportunity to harness his uncontrollable Tasmanian devil schtick onto celluloid, and the film is a testament to his ability to carry a film. “School of Rock” may have its share of clichés and a cache of too-cute children, but the film was entertaining in theaters and is even better when laced with bonus material.

Grohl writes love letter to his youth with ‘Probot’

By Ben Erwin
STAFF WRITER

Probot, a project started in singer/drummer/guitarist Dave Grohl’s Virginia basement, is a veritable who’s who of underground metal. The main fighter of Foo enlisted a host of rockers to live out his childhood metal fantasies.

Courting the likes of Cronos from seminal death metalers Venom; Max Cavalera of Sepultura and Soufly; Lemmy of Motorhead; and King Diamond from Mercyful Fate among others; Probot, both the album and the band, is a teenage metalhead’s wet dream.

Some of the music is sketchy at best, and the album certainly isn’t for the average Foo Fighters fan, but “Probot” is an amazing tribute to metal and the childhood heroes for a generation that grew up on death and speed metal.

Kicking off the album is machine gun riffing “Centuries of Sin” featuring the aforementioned Cronos. The tune is followed by the Sepultura-lite “Red War” with Cavalera and the “Ace of Spades”-esque “Shake Your

Blood” with Lemmy. These three songs not only set the tone for the rest of the album, but show the three basic genres of Probot: classic new wave of British heavy metal, grind-core and Motorhead-styled groove-stomp that exists somewhere between metal and hardcore punk.

Tunes like “Access Babylon,” with Mike Dean of Corrosion of Conformity, “The Emerald Law,” with Wino of The Obsessed and “Silent Spring” with Kurt Brecht of Dirty Rotten Imbeciles come off best on the album, as they rely heavily on Grohl’s hardcore and punk leanings. While much of the more metallic material may be Grohl’s admitted favorites, it becomes abundantly clear his expertise is in punk and not subgenres of metal.

Grohl may be trying his best on the haunting “Ice Cold Man” and the thundering Tom G. Warrior-fronted “Big Sky,” but heart and head never quite meet with the intensity these singers are capable of.

“Probot” is an intriguing release, showcasing genres of music the average pop music fan may never become familiar with. The problem

“Probot”

Probot

GRADE: B+

is, despite his best intentions, Grohl can’t always pull it off despite multiple contributions from Wino and ex-Soundgarden guitarist Kim Thayil.

These shortcomings, not withstanding the low-fi recording aesthetics and raw power of the largely live recordings, lend credibility to the purity and minimalism Grohl is ultimately celebrating. He has had the Midas touch with Foo Fighters, Queens of the Stone Age and Tenacious D. This has heightened the expectations for any project with which he becomes involved.

Probot may not always be on par with that level of quality, but the album is a loving testament to the groups Grohl grew up on that have gone largely ignored by a generation all too willing to swallow the shallow tripe of the likes of Britney Spears, countless boy bands and a slew of whiney, crybaby nü metal-heads.



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Inventive new ‘game show’ wins points for creativity

Chappelle delightfully offensive in premiere season collection

By Dan Valenziano
VERGE EDITOR

I loathe almost all reality shows. Every now and again, I'll watch the first couple episodes of American Idol just to see how terribly bad some people are at singing without even knowing it. Oh shut up, I know you do it too. Reality shows represent almost all that is wrong with our country today – but one new show is different.

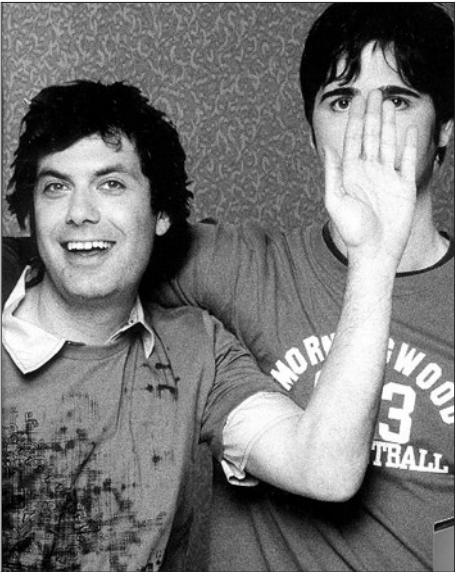
“Kenny vs. Spenny” is a show about two unlikely best friends doing what they normally do only there are cameras filming the “stars.” The show focuses on Kenny Holtz and Spencer “Spenny” Rice, two twenty-something guys living in Toronto, Canada. I think I like the production because it is more of a documentary than a reality series. Kenny and Spenny are bitter rivals. They would probably make better enemies than friends, but then what fun would that be. The premise of the show is that the two participate in a series of competitions, usually one per episode.

I guess I can relate to this because my older brother, who also happens to be my best friend, and I were born only a year and half apart. We fought about everything. We fought about who was better at water skiing. We fought about who could eat more. We fought about who could jump the highest, yell the loudest, throw a ball the farthest and everything else you can think of. After each competition, I would walk away thinking I was superior, as I’m sure he did. The great thing about “Kenny vs. Spenny” is that there is a clearly defined winner for each competition – but the funny part is not who wins, it is how the game is played.

Kenny is a classic underachiever who will stop at nothing, cut every corner and employ every person and object he can to help him win each competition. He is a liar, he is a cheat, he is a slob and he is hilarious. Nothing gives him greater pleasure than torturing his best friend.

Spenny is exactly the opposite. He plays the game straight-up. He’s a driven-kind-of guy with a steady job and a nervous, neurotic personality.

The first episode I saw was a competition to see who could stay awake the longest. Kenny consulted an herbal specialist (who, by the way,



“Kenny vs. Spenny”
GSN
GRADE: B+

told Kenny to “clench his anus” and pull out his own hair to stay awake), took supplements, drank gallons of coffee and even ate the grounds dry. He had some sort of little gadget attached to his ear that would beep if his head wavered from a completely upright position. The man would stop at nothing to win.

Spenny thought he could beat Kenny without the use of any outside aide. The both grew exhausted as the competition went on; Spenny even started to hallucinate. In all, the two stayed up for over 80 hours until one fell asleep. And no, I won’t tell you who won.

Whoever wins the competition gets a reward – picking a humiliating activity for the other to perform. This could be the best part of the show. For example, the winner of the episode I just described made the other be his personal bathroom assistant. It was a stinky job, but to the victor go the spoils.

“Kenny vs. Spenny” premieres Thursday, March 18 at 9 p.m. CST on GSN, The Network for Games.

By Ben Erwin
STAFF WRITER

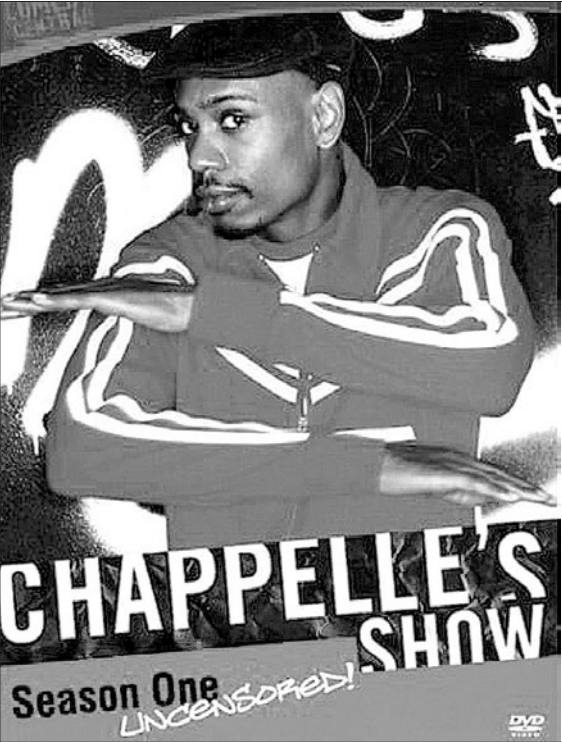
Tackling issues from racism to R. Kelly to slavery reparations and drugs, comedian Dave Chappelle butchers every sacred cow rife for slaughter on the uproariously funny and ribald “Chappelle’s Show.” With the release of season one, the Comedy Central program is now saved for posterity with a slew of extras and background information, adding depth and context to one of the funniest shows on television today.

Since the show’s inception almost two years ago, Chappelle has prided himself with lampooning not only current culture, but social mores and modern senses of decency. With a ribald sense of style standing in firm opposition to the bowdlerization of modern television, “Chappelle’s Show” may be the only program on cable determined to exist as a permanent iconoclast.

Skits like “National Geographic’s Third World Girls Gone Wild,” “Ask a Gay Guy with Mario Cantone,” “Tyrone Bigsby: The Black White Supremacist” and a host of others offer the perfect foil to much of major network television. The DVD package also offers selected commentary and a pair of featurettes that greatly complement the show’s 12 episodes.

Features like “Ask a Black Dude with Paul Mooney” and the show’s gag reel are not only funny, but offer insight into the mind of Chappelle and his writing partner Neal Brennan. While the show itself is reason enough to own the DVD, the extras are a necessary addition in giving the show context within the culture Chappelle is so successfully mocking.

Some may contend Chappelle is merely out to offend, but they’re simply missing the point. Chappelle is the modern equivalent to comic geniuses like Eddie Murphy (before he started churning out children’s drivel like “Dr. Doolittle,” “Shrek” and “Daddy Day Care”) or Richard Pryor. And while such comparisons are undoubtedly a bit premature, the social and cul-



“Chappelle’s Show: Season One”
Comedy Central
GRADE: A

tural relevance of the show and its ability to push the boundaries of television is undeniable. Other sketch comedy programs like “Saturday Night Live” and “Mad Television” became painfully dated after only a few years, but “Chappelle’s Show” should avoid that pitfall rather easily. The show occasionally slips into bouts of childish scatological humor and trite stereotyping, but the humor is typically insightful, thought-provoking and largely hilarious. Time will tell, however, whether the brilliance of “Chappelle’s Show” will not only stand the test of time, but become the comedic benchmark it has the potential to be.

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‘NFL Street’ indulges all football fantasies

By David Thill
STAFF WRITER

Although the Superbowl has long since come and gone, EA Sports hopes you will indulge in your football fantasies with their new game “NFL Street.”

“Street” allows one to play out his or her dreams of playing a 7-on-7 pickup game with some of the biggest superstars in the NFL.

The level of control given to the player is unlike that of any other football game on the market today. Not only are you given the ability to customize a player’s face, gear, physical appearance, physical attributes and celebration style, but you also are able to incorporate a player’s personal style with the touch of a button.

For example, while breaking a tackle for a large gain, you can dribble the ball between your legs or taunt your followers by waving your hand in the direction of the end-zone.

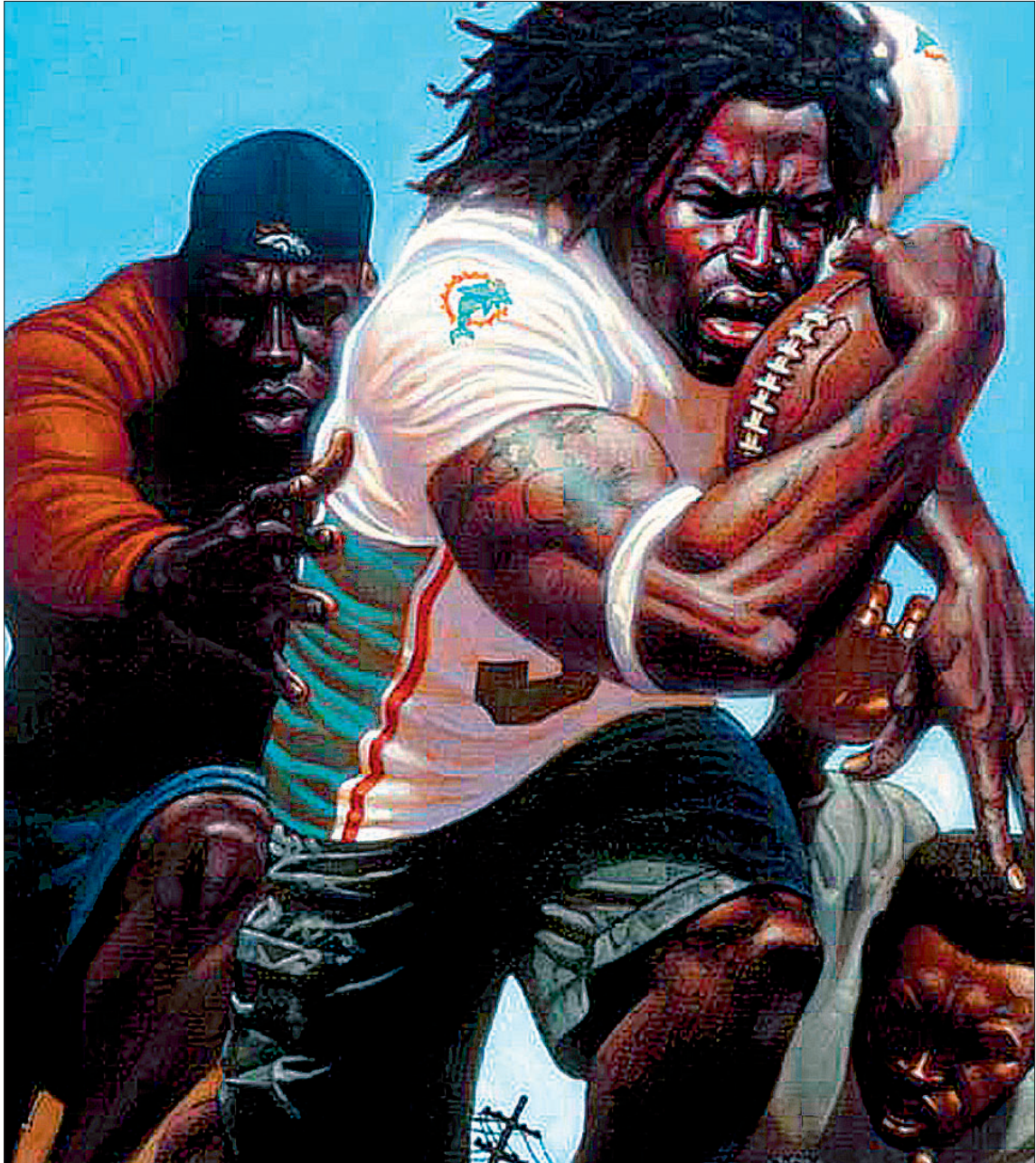
Personal style is not relegated only to the running back, though. The quarterback can pitch the ball behind his back, the wide receiver can catch the ball between his legs, and even a defensive lineman can throw an elbow in someone’s face and pump his fist in celebration.

The personal style function serves not only to add flare to the game, but also contribute to the GameBreaker function.

The GameBreaker function is achieved after gaining a set amount of Style Points during a game. Once the necessary points have been achieved, the player is given the option of entering GameBreaker mode. Every mode is unique.

For instance, if you are on defense when you enter the GameBreaker function, your linebacker may become unstoppable enough to force a loss of yards, or your lineman may be unblockable and force fumbles whenever an opponent tries to run.

On offense, your quarterback’s



accuracy may become perfect, or your running back may increase in strength, running over all that stand in his way.

The Style and GameBreaker functions are fun, but the bulk of the game is most impressive.

The modes of play are diverse

and excellent.

One may choose “Quick Play,” which allows you to play a standard pickup game using any NFL team. Or you can mix-and-match your pick of NFL stars in the “Pickup Game” function.

The real draw to keep playing

the game is the NFL Challenge, which places the players and their custom team up against NFL franchises.

One must go from conference to conference and division to division, playing each team in any number of challenges.

“NFL Street”
EA Sports
GRADE: A-

Challenges range from scoring first against the Seattle Seahawks to merely beating the St. Louis Rams in a game to 36. One may even be asked to dive to a touchdown on the opening drive against the Arizona Cardinals.

Succeeding in these challenges results in numerous rewards: points to boost your player’s skills, new uniforms, access to teams’ playbooks, or the ability to choose from a larger list of players.

The most impressive aspect of the game is the visual effects. Players appear like exaggerated caricatures, while still maintaining a sense of realism. Their faces look very cartoonish, but are still recognizable.

The environments are lush and surprisingly interactive. Nothing will rattle you like being tackled by Brian Urlacher, linebacker for the Chicago Bears, and slammed into a brick wall.

The variety of environments are amazing. One can play anywhere from the sands of a California beach to a snowy park in the Bronx.

The physics of the game are incredibly entertaining, to say the least. In a normal football game, a hit may knock you down or send you sailing a few feet; a hit in “Street” can send you hurtling literally dozens of feet or send you flipping head over heels into a group of spectators.

The only weakness of “Street” is the limited number of plays in any given playbook. One can earn more playbooks, but it takes time.

“NFL Street” offers a wide variety of play modes, a stylistic new twist to one of America’s favorite pastimes and has beautiful and colorful graphics. It is hard to put down the controller and even harder to leave it down. “Street” is an excellent game all around.

GUIDE TO BETTER LIVING

Spring break, townie style

CONCERT CALENDAR

While thousands flee Charleston like rats jumping a sinking ship, desperate to place distance between themselves and the painful grind of college life, some of us will go nowhere. For some of us there will be no vacation and there will be no trips. There will only be a week off from school stuck here in Charleston. But fear not! For there are many things for one to do in Charleston to keep you busy for a week.

♦ Reacquaint yourself with your old friend Wal-Mart.

Finding yourself bored beyond all belief? Nowhere to go? Wrong! Take some time to go reintroduce yourself with your dear, old friend Wal-Mart. Make a trip, nay, a pilgrimage, to the blue and gray mecca that is Wally World. Take a tent, and hike deep into the wilderness that is the clothing section. Literally stay all night.

If they try to throw you out, just claim you wandered in seeking shelter from the cold, took a wrong turn near the toys and realized you were lost somewhere near the arts and crafts section. Commandeer some grossly undersized bicycles and partake in the Wally 500. Play a game of hide and seek with the night janitor. And follow behind a stock boy all night, rearranging all the items he just spent hours setting up in an orderly fashion. By the time the sun rises, you will have a new found appreciation for the outside world and never want to return. And don’t worry, the employees will never let you.

♦ Take a trip to the Charleston race track.

Nothing spells thrills, spills and chills like a trip to the race track. And nothing spells hilarity like a bunch of guys driving incredibly fast on an incredibly small track. Feel free to take some time out of your hectic schedule of lounging and



By Davud Thill
STAFF WRITER

sleeping to go to the race track on Friday night. The weather worn, 6-story statue of Abraham Lincoln in the background is the perfect scene-setter for the insane festivities that follow. Crazy driving? You can bet on it. Explosions? A distinct possibility. Drunken townsfolk screaming at the top of their lungs for blood? An absolute. So if untrained drivers flying along at groin-grabbingly fast speeds are what tickle your fancy, stroll on down to the race track, toss back a frosty brew, and grab your groin.

♦ Discover the rural myths of Charleston.

You thought Charleston was merely a sleepy little town where nothing interesting ever happens? Incorrect, sir! There are several myths and bone-chilling events that have occurred ‘round these parts. If you have guts enough to venture to said spots of terror, you will be rewarded with literally hours of fun...or at least hours out of your home.

First of all, there is the old classic, Ashmore Estates. Once a mental asylum six miles east of Charleston, it is now a run-down shell of what once was. For years, teenagers and college students alike have journeyed to this decrepit tower of terror. Imagine, if you will, boarded up windows and doors, room after room with various debris strewn about haphazardly. That spells terror to me! That and time filler.

Another old favorite is Airtight Bridge. Once the site of an actual grizzly murder, the details of which are so terrifying that if I began to tell them one may

soil themselves out of fear...and no one wants that. Airtight is now just a scarcely used bridge, but it might be worth heading out to if you are really desperate.

♦ Partake in Charleston’s eateries.

While most everyone has eaten at the fast food franchises offered in town, many have not eaten at the better places in town. Restaurants such as: Lincoln Garden, that’s down home cookin’, son; China 88, the finest of all the Chinese food selections...tell them D.T. sent you; El Rancherito, you’ll swear you have been instantly transported to a Mexican restaurant on the west side of Charleston! Any of these are excellent selections, so bon appetit!

♦ Take a hike down the railroad tracks.

Strap a pack on your back, and roll out! Pick a random spot and just start walking. Who knows where the rails will take you? You may find yourself strolling into towns lost in time. Getting tired? Pitch a tent for the night. Is that a coyote in he distance? A mad hobo? A shotgun-wielding group of hill folk waiting to torture you “Deliverance”-style? Best of luck, you Ned Beatty-lookin’ fool, you! And who knows, you might find your life’s passion in rail riding and pan handling!

So go, make your own fun and waste some time in Chucktown! It will be a spring break to remember, I assure you...either that or the mind numbing boredom will drill a hole into your mind to the point where you go insane and the voices in your head tell you it is time to start “cleansing.”

Either way it will be a surprise to everyone! So good luck, and go nuts and have a good old’ spring breakin’ time!

- March 12**
 - ♦ Chimaira
Oasis One Sixty
Chicago Heights
 - ♦ Liz Phair
Vic Theatre
Chicago

- March 13**
 - ♦ The Tossers
with Spider
Stacy’s Pogue
Mahone
The Metro
Chicago

- ♦ Ziggy Marley
and Spearhead
Canopy Club
Chicago**

